



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Transf

✓ To see please.

*Barry Gallagher has suggested that
the SDLP meeting might be brought forward from
Friday to 70. morning if*

Telephone call from John Hume. 3rd July. 1991 *you agree.*

3/7

1. In a telephone call late last night, John Hume expressed considerable concern about the approach and attitude of the Secretary of State to the present impasse in the talks process.
2. Hume and the SDLP seem very distrustful of Brooke at the moment; this seems in particular to stem from:-
 - (a) their belief that Brooke is tending to point the finger at the party over the present impasse. The Secretary of State apparently said at the meeting with the Party leaders yesterday evening that one of the principal reasons for not continuing with the talks at this time was the SDLP's unwillingness to put specific proposals on the table;
 - (b) Hume and the SDLP also feel that Brooke is going to very considerable lengths to protect the Unionists from any fall-out over the present situation - the Secretary of State, in their view, is particularly understanding of the Unionists attitude to talking "in the shadow" of the 16th July Conference;
 - (c) Hume has also warned Brooke in private against the danger of undermining the Agreement in any way. He made the point to the Secretary of State that it was the Agreement which had ultimately brought the Unionists to the negotiating table. If the Conference on the 16th did not take place - or if it

Mr. Brown

3/7

Mr. Gallagher

3.7.91

were seen as the principal cause of the present difficulty - Hume argued that the British would be making the fatal mistake of handing their traditional veto on policy development back to the Unionists. Brooke responded that he had to take account of the "under-tow" at Westminster in relation to the Conference.

3. In response to Brooke's invitation to the party leaders to make an input into his statement in the Commons today, Molyneux and Paisley handed over pieces of paper to the Secretary of State. Hume however declined to put forward any suggestion, on the grounds that the speech was a matter for the Secretary of State.
4. Finally, Hume asked about the attitude of the Taoiseach and the Minister to the present situation. I emphasised that, as he was aware from his various meetings, they were fully supportive of the SDLP position, and were also very appreciative of the way in which the party had kept them fully informed of developments.

DAG
Dermot Gallagher
3rd July 1991

cc: PST; PSM; Mr. Nally; PSS; Mr. Brosnan; Ms. Anderson.