



## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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CONFIDENTIAL

Conversation with Rev. John Dunlop

North Belfast, 9 April 1991.

Summary

Rev. Dunlop is a Presbyterian Minister in North Belfast of strong unionist views. He made the following points about the talks:

1. Just before I met with him he had been at a Church meeting with 7 other Presbyterian Ministers. He had told them he would be meeting someone from Dublin and asked them what they would like him to say. He had been somewhat taken aback at the relatively hardline views which he summarised as - "abolish Articles 2 & 3, and it is no business of Dublin what happens in Northern Ireland".
2. His own sense is that Protestants accept that some sort of accommodation will have to be reached with Catholics in Northern Ireland. However, any institutionalised role for the Irish Government in the affairs of Northern Ireland would be a major stumbling block for the majority of Protestants.
3. In approaching the talks he felt the Government, which has successfully reflected the sense of hurt of northern Catholics, should be careful to be sensitive to the genuine sense of hurt among northern Protestants. The Provo campaign has reinforced their traditional sense of insecurity and they are genuinely fearful of the future.
4. Like others, he saw the main virtue of any new settlement as being its potential for marginalising the Provos and spoke of the need for Protestants to be able to see a "peace dividend" emerging from the process. To deliver peace in a meaningful way, he saw no alternative to a policy of selective internment north and south.

*BW*

Brendan McMahon  
Anglo-Irish Division  
11 April 1991

cc A/Sec Gallagher  
Counsellors A.I.  
Secretariat  
Box