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Mr. Callaghan
S.H. 28.7.95.

IMMEDIATE

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to see please
Mr. Callaghan
28/7/95*

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27 July 1995 pages including this one: 1 No of

To: HQ From: Belfast
For: Second Secretary O hUiginn From: B Callaghan

Secretary of State s Meeting with Gerry Adams (2)

1. Martin Williams has given us a briefing on today s meeting. (You will have seen the statement issued afterwards, which had been shown to SF and with which they had no difficulty.) What he told us was based on a fleeting conversation with the Secretary of State, who had to leave Northern Ireland shortly afterwards.
2. There had been problems in setting up the meeting, which had been set up at short notice. There was no publicity surrounding the arrival and departure of Adams and McGuinness, which Williams interpreted as showing that SF were not using the meeting for publicity purposes. It lasted about one and a half hours.
3. Williams described the meeting in positive terms (the most useful we ve had) and as having been worth doing. The Sinn Fein side put forward a constructive proposal. He was unable to say what it was, pleading the brevity of his conversation with the SoS. The proposal was couched in deliberately broad terms. SF said that they accepted that their weapons at some stage would have to be taken to one place and destroyed and that this would have to be subject to verification. However, they saw no particular merit in the international commission idea. The SoS s response to the SF proposal was that he would consider it and talk to others .
4. Williams was unable to say to what extent the SF proposal was teased out at the meeting. He saw it as encouraging that SF had spoken so openly as they had about decommissioning and effective verification.
5. According to Williams, SF felt vulnerable and that their credibility was at stake.

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Sinn Féin

...news release / nuacht ráiteas...

For immediate release
27 July 1995

SINN FEIN CONFIRMS MEETING WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT

Sinn Féin President, Gerry Adams and Ard Chomhairle member, Martin McGuinness met with British Ministers, Patrick Mayhew and Michael Ancram today in Belfast. The meeting lasted one and a half hours.

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NORTHERN IRELAND
Information Service

27 July 1995

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP, accompanied by Michael Ancram MP, held a meeting with Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness of Sinn Fein this morning.

The meeting concentrated on exploring the way forward in the peace process in the light of recent events. Discussions covered a wide range of issues.

Both sides agreed the meeting had been constructive and agreed to reflect on whether further such meetings might be appropriate.