

SECRET

27

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DAILY MEETING HELD AT 11 00 AM ON
13 JUNE 1972 IN STORMONT CASTLE

PRESENT:

The Secretary of State
Mr Paul Channon MP
Sir William Nield
Sir David Holden
Sir Harold Black
Mr P J Woodfield
Mr K P Bloomfield
Mr J T A Howard-Drake
Mr K McDowall
Mr H F T Smith
Mr T C Platt
Mr I M Burns
Mr R M Whalley
Miss B Peters
Mr J F Howe - CIVIL Adviser to GOC

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State indicated that local elections and in particular the question of PR would be considered by the Cabinet on Thursday, 15 June. While the Chief Whip had expressed concern about the general implications for the UK of introducing PR, and there were some worries about Protestant reaction, it was agreed that an early decision was essential. Mr Bloomfield was invited to brief the Secretary of State on details of the STV system of PR election.

PROPOSED CONFERENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

The Secretary of State decided that the proposals for a conference should be dealt with in two stages. First, that there should be a commitment only to talks about talks and then hopefully the development of these initial talks into a formal conference. Mr Bloomfield was invited to prepare a draft statement for consideration by the Secretary of State before his discussion at the Cabinet Meeting on Thursday.

DISCUSSIONS WITH UDA

There was a discussion about the lines which might be taken by the Secretary of State at his meeting with UDA leaders later the same day and about the best method

SECRET

SECRET

of participation in the talks by the GOC. Mr Burns was asked to make available in time for the meeting copies of certain extracts from Hansard dealing with assurances given at Westminster about the Border.

It was reported from Ministry of Health and Social Services that workers in the Belfast area were organising to cancel weekend working. Mr Howard Smith undertook to look further into the position and report to the Secretary of State.

SIR WILLIAM NIELD'S VISIT TO LONDONDERRY

Despite the extensive bomb damage to the Guildhall, Sir William Nield's talks with the Development Commission had been constructive and agreement had been reached on a proposed method of speeding up decisions and improving liaison with Ministries on ten projects at present under consideration by the Commission. The need to keep an acceptable balance between Protestant and Catholic areas in the programme was being borne in mind.

ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sir David Holden reported that some members of the Commission had requested an early meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss anticipated political developments over the next few days. It was agreed that they would be seen the following day although precise developments on PR and the proposed conference would not be clarified until Cabinet decisions had been made.

F R RODGERS

SECRET