

310/93.

310/93.

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: MRS D E McNALLY
CPL DIVISION
4 NOVEMBER 1993



cc: PS/Michael Ancram (L,B&DENI) -B/T
PS/Mr Fell -B
Mr Bell -B
Mr Carvill -T
Mr Maccabe -B
Mr Wood (L&B) -B
Mr Caine -B

413/11

1. MISS HARRISON (signed GFH 5/11)
2. MR BROOKER (Signed DB 9/11)
3. PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) -B

Mr Watkins
for file
State
9/11

SECRETARY OF STATE'S ADDRESS TO QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY POLITICS SOCIETY
("POLYSOC")

The Secretary of State has accepted an invitation to address Queen's student politics society on Monday 22 November. He is due to arrive at 2.00 pm, speak for twenty minutes and then take questions.

Background

2. "Polysoc" is a debating society based in the Department of Politics of Queen's University; its membership is restricted to the students and staff of the Department. It is a well established society which has been in existence for over twenty years. Debates in the past have been addressed by politicians from both Northern Ireland and Great Britain (Mr Kevin McNamara, Mr Richard Needham, Ms Kate Hoey and Mr Paul Boetang have taken part in previous events).

3. An outline for a possible speech is attached. In essence it begins by alluding to the Government's fully worked out, coherent set of policies, based on the recognition that the fundamental political, security and socio-economic problems in Northern Ireland are closely related and inter-connected. It then goes on to focus

1. cc in a
2. in whole

CPL1/AJH/16661

CONFIDENTIAL

I suppose we may be asked for a contribution.

Jul

10.11

310/93.

CONFIDENTIAL

particularly on political development. Before a further draft is worked up I should be grateful if you could let me know whether this is the sort of approach the Secretary of State would wish to take.

(signed)

MRS D E McNALLY
Constitutional and Political Division
OAB Ext 3786

Government's policies

2. Founded on fact it is a fact that the Government of Northern Ireland is based on the principles of international law - the Constitution of 1921 and the Government of Ireland Act 1920 which exists in common law together with the principles of international law and the principles of international law and the principles of international law. The elimination of terrorism, from the quarter, is the Government's overriding objective. But the Government believes that the underlying causes must be addressed at the same time. Best means of tackling this is through fully worked out, coherent and integrated set of policies, based on a recognition that fundamental political, security and socio-economic problems in NI are closely related and inter-connected. These will bring success on its own, co-ordinated progress in each, together with a constructive relationship with Republic will help to achieve objective of peace, stability, prosperity and reconciliation for NI in Northern Ireland.

CONFIDENTIAL

CPL1/AJH/16661

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRETARY OF STATE'S ADDRESS TO QUEEN'S STUDENT POLITICS SOCIETY

OUTLINE OF DRAFT SPEECH

Introduction

I appreciate your kindness and hospitality in inviting me along to address your politics society. I understand "Polysoc" has been in existence for over 20 years. I look forward to your comments and questions after my address.

Government's policies

2. Founded on fact NI is part of UK, enshrined in domestic and international law - NI constitution 1973 and AI Agreement. Division which exists in community together with grievances in the social, economic and constitutional fields has spawned inter-communal violence and terrorism. The elimination of terrorism, from whatever quarter, is the Government's overriding objective. But the Government believes that the underlying causes must be addressed at the same time. Best means of tackling this is through fully worked out, coherent and integrated set of policies, based on recognition that fundamental political, security and socio-economic problems in NI are closely related and inter-connected. None will bring success on its own, co-ordinated progress in each, together with a constructive relationship with Republic will help to achieve objective of peace, stability, prosperity and reconciliation for all in Northern Ireland.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 -

CPL1/AJH/16661

CONFIDENTIAL

3. Inevitably, I have had much to say about the security situation in recent weeks, that is what journalists seem always most interested to hear about. Today however, I want to concentrate on the political development process.

4. Promoting political stability in Northern Ireland is a key challenge for the Government. At the heart of our policy is our fundamental commitment to defending and upholding the democratic rights of the people of Northern Ireland in regard to their future in the Union. Let me say we shall always stand behind their democratic wishes.

5. The Government is determined, more than ever before, to secure a widely acceptable political agreement which would involve giving local people more power and responsibility for their own affairs, within a framework of positive and constructive relationships.

6. Such an agreement would need to encompass the three key sets of relationships involved; those within Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and those between the two Governments.

7. Over the past two years Government has been working to promote dialogue between the four main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland and between the British and Irish Governments. The process has involved various phases. By its support for terrorism Sinn Fein has excluded itself from this process.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

CPL1/AJH/16661

CONFIDENTIAL

8. When round table talks ended in November 1992, the independent chairman Sir Ninian Stephen said that in his opinion the original objectives remained both valid and achievable. All the participants, without exception, agreed that further dialogue was both necessary and desirable.

9. Since then people have been quick to write of the process, I do not agree with them. It is evident that the overwhelming majority of people in Northern Ireland want desperately to see the problems resolved, want to see uncertainties put behind them and want to see the politicians talk. Both the Taoiseach and I recognised this in our joint statement following the recent IGC on 3 November when we "recognised the yearning of the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland for peace and the responsibility that this yearning imposes on all involved in constitutional politics to respond seriously and constructively". That is why we are carrying forward our work with renewed intensity.

10. I have a rational hope that the talks process will succeed. I have found three reasons for continuing: no responsible person is content with status quo; there is general recognition of the significant areas of agreement in 1992 talks; and there is support for discreet bi-lateral discussions.

11. We all hope to see further round table talks as soon as practicable. But immediate round table talks would be counter-productive. Pre-planning and preparation are necessary. I

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

CPL1/AJH/16661

CONFIDENTIAL

believe that the best and only way forward is to proceed with the private bilateral discussions with the Irish Government and the main constitutional parties.

12. Aim: To establish areas of common agreement, explore areas of continued apprehension or disagreement and to try and identify the degree of flexibility which may be needed on all sides to resolve them.

13. Object is to draw up overall board for the negotiation stage, so as to permit when it does become appropriate, the reconvening of full round table talks.

14. Simultaneously recognise that both British and Irish Governments must continue to work together in their own terms on a framework for peace, stability and reconciliation.

15. I agree it will call for qualities of the highest order if we are to assist the people of Northern Ireland to achieve a less antagonistic way of living together; but it must be understood that there will never be any bargaining with those who in this democracy reinforce their arguments with bombs and bullets or the threat of violence. All constitutional politicians must get round the table, recognising that it is only those who disavow, unequivocally, the use of violence for political purposes in a democracy and the justifying of it who will be able to find a political solution to political problems.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

CPL1/AJH/16661

CONFIDENTIAL

CPL1/AJH/16661

CONFIDENTIAL

16. Task we have set ourselves is not an easy one. Not set ourselves any artificial time limits on this process. Any further dialogue need not be in same format as previous round table talks - this is an issue to be settled between the participants.

17. The Government will continue to do, as it has in the past, all it can to advance the process. Willing, if others would find it helpful, to bring forward proposals to provide focus and direction for new Talks once they begin.

18. No hidden agenda; key is acceptability.

19. The Government's position is quite clear. Those who try to destroy the potential for consensus through violence represent a small minority and will be further marginalised by the vigorous application of the law. Re-affirmed in Prime Minister and Taoiseach recent statement following European Council meeting in Brussels.[quote]. Belief that despite the painful legacy of the past 25 years this is still possible.

Peroration

20. Perceived demand by everyday people, especially after recent atrocities, that politicians, more than ever should start talking. People everywhere saying there has got to be compromise. Believe there is real chance of achieving our goal - a comprehensive political settlement. We must seize that chance: we cannot allow political progress to die.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 5 -

CPL1/AJH/16661