ROM : A J N Tansley British Embassy

DUBLIN

DA : 18 February 1997

CC: Mr MacCabe

Ms Bharucha

Ms Fenning, RI

Ms Fenning, RID Mr Thomas, B&L

Mr Bell
Mr Watkins
Mr Leach
Mr Wood (L&B)
Mr Beeton

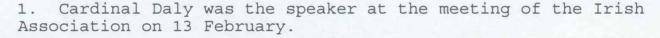
Mr Brooker, B&L

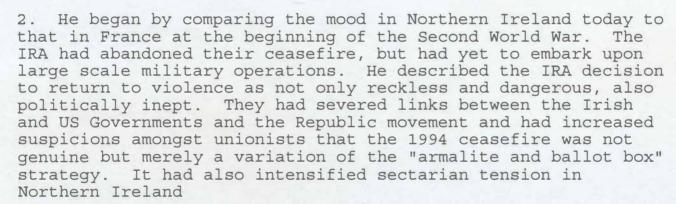
Mr Hill
Mr Perry
Mr Steele

Mr Stephens, B&L

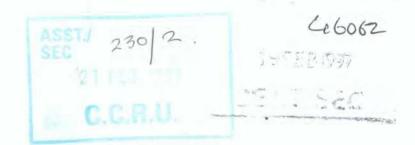
DHM

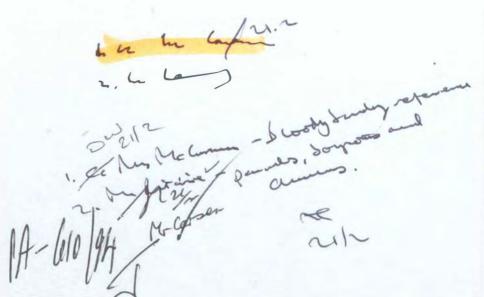
CARDINAL DALY





4. Cardinal Daly went on to say that he hoped that no British government would be so foolish as to backtrack on the process which had been in train since the signature of the Anglo-Irish agreement. The 1994 ceasefire had been a momentous occasion. It would be wrong to exaggerate its signficance in the evolution on republican thinking. Despite recent events, he still held out hope for a peaceful settlement. He had taken some comfort from the recent statement by the IRA that it was still committed to the search for peace and to the Sinn Fein leadership's efforts in that direction. He had also been encouraged by Adams' statements that Sinn Finn were prepared to





accept the Mitchell principles, and perceived in all this an internal debate in the republican movement about the armed struggle. He called on the two Governments to maintain sacts with Sinn Fein in the hope that this would lead to a re. oration of the ceasefire.

- 5. Cardinal Daly then dwelt on the position of Unionists, stressing that their fears were genuine and could not be ignored. But at the same time, Unionists had to take account of nationalists concerns. Drumcree had had severe repercussions, and had served to highlight how little progress had been made in cross-community reconciliation and the depth of sectarianism that still existed in Northern Ireland.
- 6. Cardinal Daly then turned his attention to the British Government, calling for action on prisoner issues, and in particular the cases of Roisin McAliskey and Danny McNamee. He also called for a more resolute and pro active response to the North Report and a full inpartial investigations into the events of Bloody Sunday in the light of the new evidence which had emerged, together with a full unqualified apology for what had happened.
- harder than I would have expected from a <u>Dublin audience</u> on Catholic sectarianism, and in particular the question of the boycott of protestant businesses. While trying to be even handed, his replies failed to satisfy the whole audience, some of whom saw an inconsistency when he claimed that it was understandable for catholics not to want to do business with Orangemen who had manned illegal checkpoints last July but did not extend the same understanding to Orangemen who objected to dealing with convicted IRA terrorists in the Garvaghy Road Residence Association.

(Signed)
A J N Tansley