



Ref. A086/672

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will wish to report to Cabinet on the latest developments.

2. The key question is whether last night's repudiation, by a Committee of the Unionist Parties, of the agreement by Mr Molyneux and Dr Paisley earlier in the day to meet you again before Easter is likely to prove definitive. The Northern Ireland Assembly is discussing these developments this afternoon.

3. You may wish to raise some of the following questions:

Are strikes and other disturbances now likely in Northern Ireland next week?

If so, are they likely to escalate into worse trouble?

Does the Northern Ireland Office have fully worked out contingency plans for dealing with such trouble?

When will the further army battalion, which Ministers have now agreed should go to Northern Ireland, be despatched?

Is the Government doing everything possible to gain the acquiescence of moderate Unionists for the Anglo-Irish Agreement?

For instance, should special efforts be made to publicise the reasonableness of your offer of dialogue to Mr Molyneaux and Dr Paisley?

4. OD(I) will of course be discussing European Community aid for Northern Ireland after Cabinet.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

26 February 1986

From Study

A Message to the citizens of Great Britain

Give Ulster a Fair Chance

On 15th November 1985 at Hillsborough in Northern Ireland the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mrs. Thatcher and the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, Dr. Fitzgerald signed an Agreement which gave the Irish Republic a share in the governing of Northern Ireland. This Agreement worked out in secrecy has deeply hurt the Unionist people of Northern Ireland who over the past 19 years have resisted all attempts by the I.R.A. to force them out of the United Kingdom by shooting, bombing and killing. What the I.R.A. could not do with weapons of war Mrs. Thatcher has done by the stroke of a pen.

The results of this Agreement are:

- (i) Britain is legally committed to taking the steps necessary to achieve Irish Unity whenever a majority in Northern Ireland support this course of action.
- (ii) The Irish Republic now shares joint authority in ruling Northern Ireland through an Inter-Governmental Council. To quote the Dublin Government spokesman, "Our role is not merely consultative. It involves much more than a mere obligation on the British to ask the Irish Government its views on certain matters. It gives the Irish Government the right to put forward its views and imposes a legal obligation on the two Governments to make determined efforts through the Conference to resolve any differences."
- (iii) The Irish Government will now have a key role in determining the role and composition of Government administrative bodies such as the Police Authority for Northern Ireland which controls the R.U.C.
- (iv) On security the role for the Irish Republic is far reaching. The Agreement states that the Inter-Governmental Conferences shall "address policy issues, serious incidents and forthcoming events and set in hand a programme of work to be undertaken by the Chief Constable of the R.U.C."

The Irish Government has made it clear that they will be using these powers to put forward proposals for the disbanding of the Ulster Defence Regiment which has had over 200 of its men killed by the I.R.A. and the banning of traditional parades in Northern Ireland.

Mrs. Thatcher maintains that Northern Ireland is as British as Finchley yet no other part of the United Kingdom has this or indeed any degree of interference by a foreign and hostile Government. In spite of this enormous constitutional change in our position within the United Kingdom Mrs. Thatcher has refused the people of Northern Ireland a referendum through which they could give their verdict on this Agreement. This prompted the resignation of all Unionist M.P.s and in the resulting By-elections 71% of those who voted cast their votes against the Agreement. All we ask is that in light of this opposition the British Government should agree to suspend the implementation of this deal and get all Constitutional Parties in Northern Ireland around the conference table to consider acceptable and workable alternatives.

We don't ask for privileges, only for our rights as British citizens.

Help us by lobbying your local M.P. on our behalf.

For further details contact:

Ulster Unionist Party
3 Glengall Street
Belfast
Northern Ireland

Democratic Unionist Party
296 Albertbridge Road
Belfast
Northern Ireland

• Paisley has now set down ^{an} ~~an~~

He took a strong line, like Molyneux

Unionist leaders did not agree the
press statement yesterday. He personally attacked

Mr. Stewart

Mr. Bowie

Mr. Raynie (CBI)

Brian Mackenzie

Mr. Scott

Sos

Schools, shops, transport, must come out on
Monday.

The ~~B~~ Assembly would collapse. Monday
was only the beginning.

Prime Minister

This has been telephoned out of the Assembly. Please use it

REPORT FROM JIM DANIELL, NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

This report is second or third hand. So far only Molyneaux has spoken. Paisley has just gone onto his feet.

Molyneaux said he was very tough yesterday. He had put his points to the Prime Minister aggressively. There was no question that the Unionists could take part in talks of the kind suggested since it was clear that the NIO would consult the Irish about everything which came up.

Molyneaux was full of vitriol about the NIO and the Secretary of State. Both had to be defeated. He had not initially been part to proposals for a strike. But he now endorsed it. He would issue a statement exhorting the people of Northern Ireland to observe the day of action and show the NIO their strength of feeling. The day should be disciplined, non-violent and not involve the para militaries. The main object of attack had to be the NIO. The aim should not be to inconvenience ordinary people.

Molyneaux apparently went on to say that he thought the NIO was full of spies, who knew more about Unionist policy than the Unionists. Molyneaux also, it seems, made efforts to explain away his statement after the meeting yesterday, and he was defensive about this. We do not know the arguments he used.

cautiously. You might say just that there seems

to be evidence of a change of heart since yesterday
c D D