

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister CC PC BU  
Mr. Cushman and his party

E.F.

BRIEF FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR CUSHNAHAN

are particularly concerned at the RUC's failure to deal effectively with intimidation during the strike. There is a statement in

Objectives

- a) To retain Alliance Party (qualified) support for the Anglo-Irish Agreement;
- b) To reassure Mr Cushman that the Police remain committed to ensuring as far as possible that people can travel to work during strike action; and to explain the limitations of resources in dealing with such situations;
- c) To describe to him the offer that was put to Mr Molyneux, Dr Paisley and Mr Kilfedder; and to point out that to a large extent these would meet Alliance concerns;
- d) To seek his support for Government efforts to resume dialogue with the Unionists;
- e) To explain Government policy towards the Assembly.

use at the end of the meeting. CDP 5/3

Background

... 1. A personality note on Mr Cushman is included at Annex A.

i) The Anglo-Irish Agreement

2. The Alliance Party supports the Anglo-Irish Agreement with reservations, reflecting the fact that, although the party draws support from both sides of the community, its members support the union, and share the concern of the Unionist community. (The Alliance Party of course differs from the Unionist parties in supporting Government policy on devolution). The Resolution passed by their Policy Council was as follows:

CONFIDENTIAL

/"That ...



E.P.

which  
"That this Council, accepts the authority of Parliament in Westminster, will strive to ensure that it is given a fair chance to work for the benefit of both sides of our divided community.

"This Council believes that the party leadership should continue to seek:-

- i) An end to total secrecy and its replacement with a more open approach to the workings and deliberations of the Inter-Governmental Conference.
- ii) The establishment of a mechanism whereby all Northern Ireland constitutional parties have an input into the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Conference.
- iii) Prompt and significant reciprocal gestures from the SDLP in order to assist political progress in Northern Ireland.

"This Council further believes that as the Government and Parliament are intent on implementing this agreement continued rejection of it will lead to a major confrontation which would have catastrophic consequences for the well being of Northern Ireland and its people."

3. The first two detailed points on secrecy and on input by NI parties have been (largely) met by the offer to Mr Molyneaux and Dr Paisley of consultation arrangements, including matters discussed in the Conference. (The Government also agrees on the need for some gestures and the statement issued following the Prime Minister's .. meeting with Mr Hume (Annex B) showed that the SDLP were prepared to discuss devolution without preconditions and gave warmer support for the RUC than usual).

ii) The One-Day Strike

4. The Alliance Party did not support the strike. Mr Cushnahan has expressed his disquiet about police tactics during the one day



of action. His main concerns are similar to those expressed by others and include the apparent inability or unwillingness of the RUC to intervene to remove illegal road blocks or to provide protection to those trying to pass through illegal blocks. At one stage he suggested that Alliance confidence in the police might be so weakened that he would have to withdraw his previous unconditional support and move to a position closer to that expressed by the SDLP where support for the RUC is given only when they are acting impartially to uphold the law. He has now handed over a (large) dossier of alleged intimidation and police inactivity reported to Alliance Party Headquarters on 5 March. Amongst the victims of intimidation and violence were Alliance Assemblymen David Cook and Seamus Close and Cllr Paddy McGowan of Coleraine.

iii) Future of the Assembly

5. The Alliance has strongly opposed the Unionists' use of the Assembly as a platform for anti-Agreement rhetoric. They have withdrawn from the plenary sessions of the Assembly and refused to participate in its Grand Committee. They have striven to keep the Assembly Committees functioning, although not successfully. Mr Cushnahan has proposed prorogation of the Assembly for a period as a means of preventing its misuse.

6. But at the same time, the Alliance does not wish to see the Assembly destroyed. It continues to have potential to assume devolved power. The Alliance remains committed to devolution both for its own sake and as a means of defusing the tense situation in Northern Ireland. Many of its members are dependent on the Assembly for their livelihoods.

iv) Alliance Role in Local Government

7. Alliance Councillors have been at the forefront of attempts to keep local government operating in Northern Ireland; a group of Alliance Councillors brought the High Court case to compel Belfast City Council to make a rate (the ruling was confirmed in the Court of Appeal on 14 February but Belfast City Council subsequently defied it).



Arguments

- a) The strike on Monday can only have harmed NI's interests. The Province will be seen as industrially unstable. More regrettably the strike has encouraged the more violent elements to come to the fore. There were disgraceful incidents - including petrol bombs and shots fired during disturbances in loyalist areas. It has put at risk the future of all the people of Northern Ireland. Now that opposition to the Agreement has been registered, it is in everyone's interest that dialogue resumes. There are signs that moderate Unionists - not least Mr Molyneaux - are concerned about the violence. What is your view?
- b) The Government is concerned about complaints of police inaction. A full report on all policing aspects of the 24 hours of the strike has been requested from the Chief Constable. We will all learn from any mistakes; and the police and the Government remain committed to ensuring that in such circumstances as far as possible anyone who wishes to go to work will be able to.

Before criticising the police one must look at their problems. With such widespread disruption they are thinly spread, and cannot deal effectively with every instance of intimidation or other action. But 441 out of 655 roadblocks were cleared, most main roads were open and most people were able to go to work and return home. 57 arrests and another 184 people are being considered for prosecution.

All complaints of negligence by the police will be investigated.

- c) The Government remains committed to the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Endorsed at Westminster by massive majorities. At the same time we recognise the significance of the Unionist vote in the by-elections.



**CONFIDENTIAL**

- d) We need to dispel misrepresentations of the Agreement and concerns about it. The Agreement is not a move towards a United Ireland. In fact it reinforces the status of Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom and right of majority to determine that status, as well as the sovereign responsibility of HMG in Northern Ireland. The Government wants Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom.

Determined that Agreement shall bring benefits for everyone in Northern Ireland including unionists. Not doing badly so far. Arms finds in Sligo and Roscommon on 26 January were biggest ever on land in Ireland. We are working hard for more successes like that. Irish Republic has signed European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, something Unionists have long wanted.

Grateful for any support the Alliance party can give to get these messages over.

- e) The Government recognises the wish of Alliance and the Unionist parties to be consulted fully about the affairs of Northern Ireland in parallel with what goes on in the Intergovernmental Conference. We would like to establish arrangements for consultation - not necessarily confined to matters discussed in the Intergovernmental Conference. Such consultation would go some way to meeting Alliance concern.
- f) We are willing to consider positively the suggestion of a Round Table Conference on devolution. We are ready to consider any types of devolution that command widespread acceptance in Northern Ireland. We could look at the various possibilities (including a scheme within the 1982 Act; the DUP's idea of the devolution of legislative powers; the UUP's ideas for executive or administrative devolution; Sir Frederick Catherwood's idea of weighted majorities and Alliance proposals for devolution based on a system of committees) If devolution were to take place it would reduce the scope of

**CONFIDENTIAL**



the Intergovernmental Conference considerably.

- g) At the meeting on 25 February it was agreed that I would talk further with Mr Molyneux and Dr Paisley. They subsequently changed their minds. The Government would like to resume that dialogue. Grateful if any influence the Alliance party has could be used to persuade the UUP and DUP to resume it.
  
- h) The Government genuinely wishes to see the Assembly continue. It is an important forum in which Unionists and Alliance can make their views known. It has the potential to take on real power. We remain willing to discuss its future with you and Unionist leaders. Despite your best efforts, the Assembly is not carrying out its statutory functions.
  
- i) <sup>Assembly's</sup> The/ recent debates on the Anglo-Irish Agreement have served only to raise the temperature. All of this must put a question mark over its future. But the Secretary of State will try to take account of Alliance views on this subject over the days and weeks ahead.

Statement

... A possible draft statement is included at Annex C.



E.F.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

JOHN CUSHNAHAN

Alliance Party: General Secretary 1974-82; Assembly member for C Down; Belfast City Councillor 1977-85, Party Leader .

Background

Born 1948 in the Lower Falls area of Belfast, he attended St Joseph's College of Education in West Belfast and gained a BEd degree from Queen's. He was president of the Students' Union for 2 years and vice president of the NUS. Active in the civil rights days, he did not join the Alliance Party until 1974, when he applied for, and obtained, the post of Party General Secretary. He was elected to Belfast City Council in 1977 and was the Party's candidate for North Belfast in the 1979 General Election, winning 4,000 votes.

He was a front-bench member of the Alliance Party delegation to the Conference on the Government of Northern Ireland in early 1980. Re-elected to Belfast City Council in May 1981. Announced in September 1981 that he had decided to resign the General Secretaryship, but would continue to work for the party. Resigned from the Board of the Housing Executive in 1982 (to which he was appointed in 1979) to stand for (and win) election to the 1982 Assembly in North Down, having transplanted from North Belfast. Married (Alice) he has 4 adopted children. A Catholic brought up in W Belfast, he now lives in Bangor. Unsuccessfully contested N Down seat in 1983 General Election. He did not contest the 1985 Government Election.

Personality and political views:

Hard-working, ambitious, and able, he is still something of a rough diamond. Firmly in the tradition of lay Catholic radicalism, he is critical of the hierarchy's role in Northern Ireland society and its opposition to integrated education. In his early political days, his importance derived from his position as full-time Party

**CONFIDENTIAL**

/Secretary ...



E.P.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Secretary (Alliance's only full-time politician). His standing however increased as he matured and he quickly became recognised as the most able working-class Catholic in a predominantly middle-class Protestant party. Took over the leadership when Mr Napier resigned in September 1984.

Mr Cushnahan fought N Down against Kilfedder in the January '86 by-election. His share of the vote fell from 22.1% in 1983 to 21% in 1986.

JLD

**CONFIDENTIAL**



The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland held a meeting this afternoon with Mr John Hume, MP, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

The Prime Minister confirmed the Government's commitment to implement the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Mr Hume reaffirmed the SDLP's willingness to enter into discussions on devolution at any time without preconditions. Mr Hume recognised that, in accordance with the Anglo-Irish Agreement, if arrangements for devolution acceptable to both communities were achieved, the subjects which would become the responsibility of the devolved body would cease to be within the purview of the Intergovernmental Conference.

Mr Hume confirmed that the SDLP fully support the Security Forces in Northern Ireland in carrying out their duty of upholding the law impartially. The SDLP totally and utterly reject violence and all those who are involved in it or in support of it. They made clear their sympathy for the relatives of all those members of the Security Forces who had been killed or wounded by terrorists, and indeed for all innocent victims of terrorism.

The Prime Minister will be seeing other political leaders in Northern Ireland in the near future to discuss among other things devolution and will thereafter have further contacts with Mr Hume.



ER.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ANNEX C

DRAFT STATEMENT ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR CUSHNAHAN

*and the S-O-S-for N-1-*

The Prime Minister <sup>and Mr Cushnahan</sup> today met Mr Cushnahan, leader of the Alliance Party. The meeting lasted [ ] hours.

Both the Prime Minister and Mr Cushnahan condemned the violence and intimidation that had accompanied the day of action and protest on 3 March. They expressed concern at the damage that had been caused to Northern Ireland by the strike. The Prime Minister assured Mr Cushnahan that any allegations of inaction by the police would be investigated and that the Government and the police remained determined to ensure as far as possible, that people could travel to and from work in such circumstances.

The Prime Minister informed Mr Cushnahan that the offer of new arrangements for enabling views to be made known to the Government on affairs in Northern Ireland remained open. Mr Cushnahan expressed his party's support for such arrangements. Both the Prime Minister <sup>and Mr Cushnahan</sup> expressed a hope that dialogue between the Governments and the Unionists on these arrangements, <sup>on</sup> on the future of the Assembly and arrangements for handling Northern Ireland business in Parliament could be resumed. The Prime Minister stated that the Government remained ready to consider positively the suggestion by the UUP and DUP of a round table conference on devolution. Mr Cushnahan expressed his party's willingness to participate.

The Prime Minister and Mr Cushnahan agreed that both would continue to challenge misconceptions about the Agreement.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



IRISH TIMES:

LEADS WITH A STORY THAT THE SDLP LEADER, MR JOHN HUME, YESTERDAY FIRMLY REJECTED DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS WHICH EMERGED FROM A SERIES OF MEETINGS BETWEEN 2 OFFICIAL UNIONISTS AND 2 MEMBERS OF THE SDLP. MR HUME SAID THAT THE 2 MEMBERS FROM THE SDLP WHO TOOK PART HAD BEEN ACTING IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY AND IN GOOD FAITH BUT NOT AS REPRESENTATIVES. MR HUME ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE NOT JUST ANOTHER NON-RUNNER, THEY WERE DEAD. HE ALSO SAID IF OFFICIAL UNIONISTS WANTED TALKS THEY SHOULD ASK FOR THEM IN THE NORMAL WAY.

THE U.S. AID PACKAGE LINKED FOR THE HILLSBOROUGH AGREEMENT WILL CONSIST OF 20 MILLION DOLLARS AS A DIRECT GRANT THIS YEAR TO AN INTERNATIONAL FUND AND 30 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE SAME PERIOD IN INVESTMENT CREDITS OF LOANS FOR HOUSING AND SMALL BUSINESSES IN BELFAST AND OTHER CITIES IN THE NORTH, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TOLD A CONGRESSIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE YESTERDAY.

IN AN INSIDE PIECE THE PAPER SAYS THAT THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY EMPHATICALLY REJECTED UNIONIST REQUESTS FOR A SUSPENSION OF MEETINGS OF LONDON AND DUBLIN MINISTERS UNDER THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT FOR A 3-MONTH PERIOD WHILE INTER-PARTY TALKS ON DEVOLUTION GOT UNDERWAY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THIS EMERGED AFTER MRS THATCHER MET THE LEADER OF THE POPULAR UNIONIST PARTY, MR JAMES KILFEDDER, AT DOWNING STREET YESTERDAY EVENING AS PART OF HER SERIES OF TALKS WITH NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL LEADERS OTHER THAN SINN FEIN. MRS THATCHER'S SENTIMENTS WERE ECHOED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING AND SAID AFTERWARDS THAT THE AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE SCRAPPED, NEITHER COULD IT BE SUSPENDED.

OFFICIAL UNIONIST POLITICIANS SEEMINGLY UNDETERRED BY THE VIOLENCE OF MONDAY'S DAY OF ACTION HAVE CLAIMED THE DAY A SUCCESS AND REFUSE TO CONCEDE THAT THE RIOTING AND INTIMIDATION HAD HANDED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT A PROPAGANDA VICTORY. THE PAPER SAYS THAT TYPICAL AMONG THEIR COMMENTS WERE THOSE OF THE PARTY'S ASSEMBLYMAN FOR NORTH DOWN, MR ROBERT MCCARTNEY, WIDELY REGARDED AS THE VOICE OF MODERATE UNIONISM WHO BLAMED THE BRITISH MEDIA FOR EXAGGERATING THE EXTENT OF THE VIOLENCE. MR MCCARTNEY IS REPORTED AS HAVING SAID THAT THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE POLICEMAN MURDERED - NONE WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED AND THAT THERE WAS LESS DAMAGE IN THE ONE-DAY STRIKE THAN IN THE RIOTS IN TOTTENHAM OR HANDBOROTH.

THE NI POLICE AUTHORITY LAST NIGHT GAVE ITS BACKING TO THE RUC'S HANDLING OF THE LOYALIST STRIKE. AFTER HEARING AN ACCOUNT OF THE POLICE OPERATION FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE SIR JOHN HERMON THE AUTHORITY CONGRATULATED HIM AND ALL THE FORCE MEMBERS FOR DEALING 'SO WELL WITH AN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT SITUATION'. AT THE SAME TIME THE AUTHORITY REFERRED TO COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE WHO ADMITTED THAT SOME ERRORS IN BOTH DISPOSITION AND JUDGEMENT WERE MADE IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY BUT THIS PRIMARILY LAY IN THE SCALE OF THE ACTIVITY CALLED FOR AND THE NECESSARY SPREAD OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AGAINST LAST NIGHT WITHOUT STRIKING A RATE. IT WAS THE COUNCIL'S LAST OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO BEFORE THE FINAL MARCH 8 DEADLINE SET BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW EXPECTED TO STRIKE A RATE NEXT WEEK. NOT ONLY IS THE COUNCIL BREACHING THE DEADLINE SET BY THE DOE IT IS ALSO ACTING IN DEFIANCE OF A COURT ORDER GRANTED TO A GROUP OF ALLIANCE COUNCILLORS LAST MONTH. LAST NIGHT'S DECISION PLACES IN JEOPARDY SOME 29 JOBS DIRECTLY DEPENDENT ON A RENEWAL OF GRANTS BY THE COUNCILLORS BY 1 APRIL. MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE WORK IN COMMUNITY ADVICE BUREAUS AND OTHER WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS. THE PAPER REPORTS THAT THERE WAS A SIMILAR ADJOURNMENT AT LISBURN COUNCIL LAST NIGHT WHO HAVE ALSO DEFIED THE DIRECTIVE NOT TO STRIKE A DISTRICT RATE.



IRISH PRESS: THAT WELL-KNOWN UNIONISTS ARE SENDING UP RESCUE SIGNALS. THE SPIRIT OF GIVE AND TAKE IS BEING SOUGHT IN RELATION TO THE NORTHERN SITUATION IN GENERAL AND THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT IN PARTICULAR. THE COLUMN EXHORTS THE NATIONALISTS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION TO BEND TOWARDS UNIONISTS, AND SAYS THAT THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT AND PEOPLE WOULD REACT WELL TO A STRONG POSITIVE SIGNAL COMING FROM MESSRS HUME AND MALLON INDICATING WILLINGNESS. IF THEY DO SO THE COLUMN ARGUES THAT THE MORE REASONABLE AND WILLING THE SDLP SHOWS ITSELF TO BE IN WESTMINSTER THE MORE WILL THE UNIONISTS BE WRONG-FOOTED.

**IRISH PRESS:**

A LOYALIST POLITICIAN SAID LAST NIGHT THAT HE INTENDED TO REVEAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING A MEETING A FORTNIGHT AGO OF THE POLICE FEDERATION, THE RUC'S REPRESENTATIVE BODY. THE REV IVAN FOSTER, THE DUP ASSEMBLYMAN FROM FERMANAGH, SAID THAT A SECRET TAPE RECORDING OF THE MEETING HAD BEEN MADE AND PASSED TO HIM. DUP DEPUTY LEADER, PETER ROBINSON, SAID LAST NIGHT THAT DISCUSSIONS ON THE TAPE WERE POLITICAL DYNAMITE. THE DUP WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT STORMONT THIS MORNING DURING WHICH THEY SAY THEY WILL ALLOW REPORTERS TO TAKE NOTES FROM THE TAPE BUT NOT RECORD IT.

**IRISH INDEPENDENT:**

IN ITS LEADER COLUMN THE PAPER SAYS THAT ALTHOUGH JOHN HUME CLEARLY WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE UNOFFICIAL TALKS THAT WERE BEING HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE UNIONISTS AND SDLP PARTIES, THE FACT THAT ANY NEGOTIATION IS TAKING PLACE IS SEEN AS A SIGN OF PROGRESS.

**NEWS LETTER:**

LEADS WITH A STORY THAT BELFAST CITY COUNCIL LAST NIGHT HAS EFFECTIVELY SIGNED ITS OWN DEATH WARRANT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT. IN WHAT THE PAPER CALLS THE SHORTEST MEETING ON RECORD THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO IGNORE SATURDAY'S GOVERNMENT DEADLINE FOR STRIKING A RATE. DUP PRESS OFFICER, SAMMY WILSON, IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID 'IT ALL DEPENDS NOW ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE GUTS TO CARRY THROUGH ITS THREAT TO SEND IN COMMISSIONERS AND I HOPE THEY DO'.

ANOTHER FRONT PAGE STORY IN THE PAPER SAYS THAT AN OFFICIAL MOLE HUNT IS TO GET UNDERWAY AT THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE. EAST BELFAST DUP ASSEMBLYMAN, DENNY VITTY, HAD REVEALED ON TUESDAY NIGHT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORCED TO SHELVE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ANGLO-IRISH CONFERENCE. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT HE HAD INSIDE INFORMATION FROM A STORMONT CASTLE MOLE WHO TOLD HIM THAT FORESEEABLE MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENTS HAD BEEN CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE RISE IN LOYALIST ANGER. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD INSTIGATED A MOLE-HUNT WHICH COULD INVOLVE ENGLISH POLICE INVESTIGATING THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK. IN ITS LEADER COLUMN THE PAPER SAYS THAT WHATEVER OTHER UNDESIRABLE SIDE-EFFECTS MONDAY'S DAY OF ACTION MAY HAVE HAD IT HAS SERIOUSLY CALLED INTO QUESTION THE WISDOM OF PROCEEDING WITH A STRATEGY BASED ON GIVING UNIONISTS A BLOODY NOSE. THE COLUMN SAYS THAT MURMURINGS FROM DUBLIN INDICATE THAT SOME SUPPORTERS OF THE HILLSBOROUGH AGREEMENT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO SEE THE DUBLIN GOVERNMENT ENTERING INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH UNIONISTS BEHIND MRS THATCHER'S BACK AND EVEN TO SEND FOREIGN MINISTER, PETER BARRY, ON HOLIDAY WHILE IRISHMEN GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF REPAIRING THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT. THE COLUMN SAYS IT WOULD BE A NOVEL WAY TO CONDUCT THE SERIOUS BUSINESS OF THE NATION'S AFFAIRS. HOWEVER THE PIECE CONCLUDES THAT ALTHOUGH UNIONIST LEADERS HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF LETTING THE EVIL GENIE OF LOYALIST VIOLENCE OUT OF A BOTTLE THIS IS A SLANDEROUS ALLEGATION BUT NEVERTHELESS VIOLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS MUST BE REJECTED WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION BEFORE THE SERIOUS WORK OF REBUILDING ULSTER CAN BEGIN.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES ACROSS THE PROVINCE CONDEMNED VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION DURING LAST MONDAY'S STRIKE AGAINST THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT. THEY ALSO HAVE BACKED THE CALL BY THE CHURCH'S GENERAL BOARD FOR ROUND-TABLE TALKS INVOLVING CONSTITUTIONAL POLITICIANS ON DEVOLUTION.



THE LOYALIST STRIKE AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLENCE IN NI YESTERDAY PROMPTED THE SECOND DUBLIN PARLIAMENTARY ROY IN 24 HOURS. THE OPPOSITION PARTY IN THE DAIL - FIANNA FAIL - COMPLAINED ABOUT A DECISION BY THE DAIL AUTHORITIES TO REFUSE A QUESTION ON THE ISSUE. TABLING A QUESTION ON BEHALF OF HIS LEADER MR BRIAN LENAHAN ASKED IF THERE WAS TO BE A MEETING OF THE NEW ANGLO-IRISH CONFERENCE ON NORTHERN IRELAND TO DISCUSS LAST MONDAY'S VIOLENCE, AND HE ALSO REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF THE ROLE OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE SERIOUS SITUATION FOLLOWING THE TOTAL BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER IN NI.

IRISH NEWS:

AN INSIDE PIECE REPORTS THAT THE STREETS OF BELFAST MAY NOT BE LITTERED WITH GOLD AT THE MOMENT BUT AT LEAST 12,000 POUNDS WILL BE SPENT REPAIRING THE SURFACES OF THEM DAMAGED BY BURNING BARRICADES DURING MONDAY'S DAY OF ACTION ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT. IN ADDITION TO DAMAGE TO ROAD SURFACES THE REPORT SAYS THAT 13 STREET LAMPS WERE WRECKED AND 53 WERE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED THROUGHOUT THE DAY. TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT THE JUNCTION OF AINSWORTH AVENUE IN THE SHANKILL ROAD ALONE WILL COST AT LEAST 1,600 POUNDS TO REPLACE.

CONTROVERSIAL LARNE PRIEST FATHER PAT BUCKLEY IS SETTING UP A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE PEACE AND JUSTICE IN NI. DETAILS OF THE NEW COMMISSION WERE RELEASED YESTERDAY WHEN IT WAS REVEALED THE FIRST TASK WOULD BE TO INVESTIGATE INTIMIDATION DURING MONDAY'S LOYALIST STRIKE. IN ITS LEADER COLUMN THE PAPER WELCOMES THE UNAMBIGUOUS CONDEMNATION BY PRESBYTERIANS OF THE VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION ON MONDAY. THE COLUMN SAYS IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE CHURCH ACTED SO PROMPTLY TO ATTRACT PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE REALITY THAT VIOLENCE IS TOTALLY ABHORRENT TO ITS MEMBERS. THE PIECE CONCLUDES THAT RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP SHOULD ANSWER IN URGENT READINESS THE PRESBYTERIAN CALL FOR ROUND-TABLE TALKS WITHOUT PRECONDITION.

+++ENDS+++

919889 NIOLON G  
74163 STOCAS G