

# **Dermot Nally Papers**

**UCDA P254/32**

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W. H. C. Keating  
JH

7 September, 1993.

Mr. Sean O hUiginn,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Department of Foreign Affairs.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sean,

As you know, the British Ambassador called on the Taoiseach yesterday morning by arrangement. I spoke to the Ambassador subsequently and the attached note, which the Taoiseach has seen, sets out the points which arose as mentioned by the Ambassador.

I subsequently spoke to the Taoiseach and he added the following points of emphasis to those covered in my note attached:

- As regards resumption of the talks process, the Taoiseach saw no optimistic signs at all. In effect there appeared to be no basis for a resumption of talks.
- He did not accept that the Unionists should be able to dictate to the British.
- He was strongly of the view that conditions for peace should be put in place first before we could expect any real progress and anything that both sides could do to achieve this should be done.
- He said he was very concerned about the vicious upsurge in loyalist violence and assassinations. They have focused their sights on the security system. This calls for a decisive and immediate response from the British Government.

Yours sincerely,

**FRANK MURRAY**

Frank Murray,  
Secretary to the Government.

c.c. Mr. Noel Dorr,  
Secretary,  
Department of Foreign  
Affairs.

cc Secretary Deakin (Re W.S. visit)



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## CONFIDENTIAL

### Taoiseach's Meeting with British Ambassador 6 September, 1993.

The British Ambassador called on me to receive details of the President's function in Warrington on 9 October after his meeting with the Taoiseach today. When we had disposed of Presidential business, the Ambassador told me of his meeting with the Taoiseach in the following terms:

#### Northern Ireland

- The Ambassador reiterated his Government's wish to see the talks resume - on a three dimensional basis as before. He said that the Ancram round of consultations had given some grounds for optimism in this regard. He expressed the hope that the IGC on Friday, 10 September would give further impetus to the prospect of the talks resuming. He added that, for their part, his Government had been privately encouraging the Official Unionists to resume dialogue with Dublin.
- The Ambassador availed of the opportunity to mention that details of our ideas on NI policy were awaited by the British side: while the British intention was to bring forward a document of their own it would be useful to have our input in advance [I commented that there was an element of Catch 22 in this].
- In relation to the Hume/Adams talks, the Taoiseach had reiterated his belief that a peaceful situation would be necessary before a political solution could be achieved.
- Reference was made to the Taoiseach's comment over the weekend to the effect that the Extradition Bill would be dealt with in the next Dáil Session. The Ambassador welcomed this statement.
- On the question of the appointment of a U.S. "Special Envoy", the British view remained as before. They did not see that such an appointment would serve a useful purpose. It would certainly give rise to very considerable Unionist opposition and have adverse repercussions on the possibility of talks resuming.
- Concern was expressed about our response to a request made through the IGC seeking additional facilities for helicopter overflights in the case of helicopters carrying heavy loads to a number of border posts in Northern Ireland. The Ambassador said he had mentioned this concern to the Taoiseach as Northern Ireland Ministers had been "surprised" at the response received from our side.
- The Ambassador said he had raised with the Taoiseach British concerns about the French proposals on GATT. In the British view, the Blair House agreement was non-negotiable.
- In concluding our conversation, I made reference to the increase in Loyalist violence in recent weeks. The Ambassador said in response that this could be seen in part as a consequence of a perceived political vacuum.

