

Dermot Nally Papers

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Misc.
F. 2.

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

SECRET & PERSONALNORTHERN IRELAND

Taoiseach,

I spoke to Cabinet Secretary Butler again.

The net points now outstanding are:-

- (a) Paragraph 4: The retention of the word "assist" or the substitution of "help" - both of which the British object to.
- (b) The phrase "including a united Ireland, achieved by peaceful means and through agreement between North and South respectively": we think the underlined words should come out since precisely the same thought occurs in the immediately following sentence.
- (c) Paragraphs 10 to 12: The option appears to be either
 - (1) maintain paragraphs 10 and 11 on the Convention as originally drafted, with the words "Irish Forum for Peace and Reconciliation" substituted for "Convention"; or
 - (2) perhaps, substitute for the three paragraphs, two short paragraphs, one giving the British line on political dialogue and the other the Irish line on the Forum. A draft of these paragraphs is available.

Obviously, the option involving least risk is simply to retain paragraphs 10 and 11, as they are but, from conversations with Butler, I expect the British will resist this strongly. I have given them your background on Molyneux. They say there is some misunderstanding.

Butler also said that there were now some very agitated Unionists about because of a selective quotation, probably from "the John Hume area" on self-determination. The Prime Minister is going to clear his diary for the rest of the afternoon so as to try to calm them. He is now suggesting tomorrow morning for his talk with you. I said that you might, nonetheless, wish to speak, even briefly, with the Prime Minister this afternoon and Butler, of course, accepted this.



Dermot Nally,
13 December, 1993.

c.c. Secretary to the Government, Mr. Frank Murray.
Dr. Martin Mansergh
Assistant Secretary Sean O'hUiginn, Dept. of Foreign Affairs.