

From: A J Whysall
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Date: 12 June, 1996

POLITICAL AFFAIR
DIVISION
13 JUN 1996
N.I.O. BELFAST

J. McKEEVILL

~~P. SMITH~~

J. BLACK

A. McVEIGH

18/6

cc PS/Michael Ancram (B+L)
PS/PUS (B+L)
PS/Sir David Fell
Mr Thomas
Mr Bell
Mr Leach
Mr Watkins
Mr Wood (B+L)
Mr Hill
Mr Lavery
Mr Maccabe
Mr Stephens
Mr Dickinson, TAU

I told the Info. Service on

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B&L) Monday that they should be very

SOUND FEEDS FROM THE TALKS

Careful about putting in sound feeds and should do so only with the express approval of the 'Body'.

1. This is to propose that the Secretary of State should write to the leaders of the parties in the talks, setting out that he has ordered the disconnection of all sound 'feeds' leading outside the main Conference room. L 13/6

2. In response to a question Dr Paisley had raised in the pre-plenary session, the Secretary of State wrote to him (with a copy to other delegation leaders) on Monday about sound feeds from the talks, in the terms attached. Unfortunately, it has become clear since the earlier advice was provided that a further connection had been put in place, to the Stormont Castle press office.

3. With the Prime Ministers' visit over and the Independent Chairmen in the chamber, there would be less inconvenience now in discontinuing the feeds; and doing so might help allay suspicions among delegations, and permit us more readily to assert that the talks are meant to be confidential. It was in fact arranged for them to be taken out of use last night (before the independent Chairman took over). If the Secretary of State agrees they should remain disconnected, he may wish to write to Dr Paisley and other delegation heads.

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4. I attach a draft. It refers to the link to the Castle: if it were to emerge later that that had been in place, as is not impossible, there would be clear scope for embarrassment. We shall provide a copy to Senator Mitchell's staff as a courtesy.

Copies
Other delegation heads

(Signed)

PS/Michael Ancram (B+L)
PS/TUS (B+L)
PS/Sir David Fell

A J Whysall

Mr Leach
Mr Watkins
Mr Wood (B+L)
Mr Hill
Mr Lavery
Mr Maccabe
Mr Stephens
Mr Dickinson, T&J
A J Whysall

I wrote to you on Tuesday, following your comments in the meeting earlier that day, about audio feeds from the Conference Room. I told you that there were two such feeds, to my office and that of Senator Mitchell (and I have since learned that wiring had been provided for a third, in Stormont Castle). As I explained, they were provided as a courtesy to Senator Mitchell, and to facilitate arrangements for the two Prime Ministers.

Now that matters have moved on, I have reviewed the justification for the feeds. I have concluded that they are not justified, and all have been disconnected.

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Draft letter for signature by SECRETARY OF STATE

To

Rev Dr I R K Paisley MP MEP
Leader, DUP Delegation

Copies

Other delegation heads

Hidden copies

PS/Michael Ancram (B+L)

PS/PUS (B+L)

PS/Sir David Fell

Mr Thomas

Mr Bell

Mr Leach

Mr Watkins

Mr Wood (B+L)

Mr Hill

Mr Lavery

Mr Maccabe

Mr Stephens

Mr Dickinson, TAU

A J Whysall

POLITICAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION
13 JUN 1996
Belfast

cc PS/PUS (B+L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Wood (B+L) - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mr Beaton - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Currie - B
Mr Harrison - B
Mr Whysall - B
Mr Lamont, RLD - B
MDA Dublin - B
Miss Collins, Cab Office

I wrote to you on Tuesday, following your comments in the meeting earlier that day, about audio feeds from the Conference Room. I told you that there were two such feeds, to my office and that of Senator Mitchell (and I have since learned that wiring had been provided for a third, in Stormont Castle). As I explained, they were provided as a courtesy to Senator Mitchell, and to facilitate arrangements for the two Prime Ministers.

Now that matters have moved on, I have reviewed the justification for the feeds. I have concluded that they are not justified, and all have been disconnected.

The Renewal Debate will take place that evening so the Secretary of State and many delegates will need to leave Northern Ireland by mid-afternoon at the very latest.

3. Unless a deal can be struck in the committee by Wednesday (which is unlikely) the report will be in the nature of an interim report. Senator Mitchell is hoping that the Committee will at least

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