

FROM: C G MACCABE
POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
31 May 1996

cc PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L)	- B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L)	- B
PS/Baroness Denton (DANI, DED&L)	- B
PS/Mr Moss (DOE, DHSS&L)	- B
PS/PUS (B&L)	- B
PS/Sir David Fell	- B
Mr Thomas	- B
Mr Legge	- B
Mr Watkins	- B
Mr Bell	- B
Mr Leach	- B
Mr Steele	- B
Mr Daniell	- B
Mr Blackwell	- B
Mr Wood (B&L)	- B
Mr Stephens	- B
Mr Hill	- B
Mr Beeton	- B
Mr Lavery	- B
Mr Carson	- B
Mrs Brown	- B
Ms Checksfield, IPL	- B
Ms Harrison, CPL	- B
Mr Lamont, RID	- B
HMA Dublin	- F
Mr Westmacott, Washington	- F
Mr Alexander, Washington	- F
Civ Sec, HQNI	- F

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

ENTRY TO NEGOTIATIONS ELECTION: 30 MAY 1996

The count after yesterday's election began at 0900 this morning and final seats were declared at 1850. Attached at Annex A are the lists of delegates elected from constituencies. Despite fears and predictions in some quarters of voter apathy, in the event the overall turnout was just over 65%. As such, we can regard this as a significant validation of the Government's decision to hold the election. The top 10 parties are (in order of votes cast) the UUP, SDLP, DUP, Sinn Fein, Alliance Party, UK Unionist Party, PUP, UDP,

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NI Women's Coalition and finally Labour. Details of those elected from the regional lists is attached at Annex B.

2. The overall totals in terms of constituency seats are:

UUP	28
DUP	22
SDLP	19
SF	15
Alliance	5
UK Unionist	1

3. And in terms of percentages (including - in brackets - variations from the last Westminster constituency-based elections):

UUP	24.2	(34.5)	-10.3
DUP	18.8	(13.1)	+ 5.7
SDLP	21.4	(23.5)	- 2.1
SF	15.5	(10.0)	+ 5.5
Alliance	6.5	(8.7)	- 2.2

4. The main trends revealed by the figures, are:

- A higher turnout than anticipated;

- A strong performance by both Sinn Fein and the DUP vis a vis their respective counterparts: the Sinn Fein trouncing of the SDLP in West Belfast was the most dramatic instance of this;

- A disappointing showing by the Alliance Party;

- The UK Unionist vote reduced in North Down and not translating into a breakthrough elsewhere;

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- The PUP narrowly failing to take two seats in the constituency vote but securing a respectable seventh place in the regional list ahead of the UDP in eighth;
- The Women's Coalition and Labour filling the last 2 places on the regional list.

5. Commentators are speculating that while David Trimble's position as UUP leader has not been enhanced, neither has it been significantly damaged. There is also speculation that the increased Sinn Fein vote may owe something to SDLP voters wishing to give moderate Republicanism the strongest possible mandate as an encouragement to enter negotiations.

6. It is also worth commenting briefly on each constituency:

East Londonderry

A good performance by the DUP winning 2 seats. Willie Ross, the sitting UUP MP, has said he is disappointed that his party did not pick up a third seat.

Foyle

Disappointment among Unionists that all the seats went to the 2 main Nationalist parties. The DUP, who are the strongest Unionist force in Londonderry, seem to have suffered from the number of smaller Unionist parties and the electoral system which overall has favoured the largest parties in constituencies.

West Belfast

A huge vote for Sinn Fein - more than double that of the SDLP - resulting in 4 seats for the former and only 1 for the

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latter. Joe Hendron, the sitting MP, has complained of widespread personation in the constituency by Sinn Fein supporters. His complaints are, however, far from convincing.

Lagan Valley

A good result for the UUP whose vote held up against the DUP.

East Belfast

Some degree of disappointment for the Alliance Party who had hoped to get 2 seats on the strength of John Alderdice's profile. A very creditable performance by David Ervine (PUP) who just missed winning the fifth seat.

Strangford

Reasonably predictable result although John Taylor might be disappointed that the UUP were not able to pick up a third seat.

South Belfast

The result is basically as expected.

East Antrim

Again, the result is generally as expected although the UUP might be disappointed at not picking up a third seat.

South Antrim

A good performance by the DUP winning 2 seats. Again the UUP might have expected to have had a good chance of gaining a third seat. The Alliance Party will be disappointed that they did not win a seat, which would have been likely under an STV system.

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North Antrim

A very good result for the UUP. Dr Paisley certainly would have expected to pick up 3 seats in his main power base.

North Down

A good performance by the UUP in overtaking Robert McCartney, whose success in the Westminster by-election last year seems to have been dependent on DUP voters. McCartney will be disappointed not to have got a second seat.

South Down

Nationalists will be pleased at winning 4 out of the 5 seats in what was, less than 10 years ago, a Unionist seat at Westminster. Eddie McGrady, the sitting MP with a high profile, will be delighted that the SDLP picked up 3 seats.

Newry and Armagh

Perhaps some disappointment in UUP ranks that they could not secure a second seat.

North Belfast

A tightly fought constituency with Billy Hutchinson (PUP) coming within approximately 100 votes of picking up the fifth seat. A very good result for the DUP.

Fermanagh and South Tyrone

Unionists will be pleased that their vote held up in what is a finely balanced constituency between Unionists and Nationalists.

Upper Bann

David Trimble expected his party to pick up 3 seats here and is annoyed that the fifth seat went to Sinn Fein. In apportioning blame, the UUP leader has attacked Robert McCartney for fielding candidates in most constituencies which has led to the 'shredding' of the Unionist vote at the expense of the UUP and to the benefit of the Nationalist parties.

Mid Ulster

Sinn Fein are delighted to have topped the poll. Disappointment in the SDLP that Denis Haughey, a party stalwart, failed to win a seat.

West Tyrone

The SDLP are pleased to have come out ahead of Sinn Fein in this new constituency. The UUP will also be pleased to have received more votes than the DUP, which gives an indicator of which party will fight the General Election if there is an electoral pact.

[signed CGM]

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STRANGFORD

John Taylor (UUP)
Thomas Benson (UUP)
Iris Robinson (DUP)
Richard James Shannon (DUP)
Kieran McCarthy (All)

SOUTH BELFAST

Robert Stoker (UUP)
James Clarke (UUP)
Steve McBride (All)
Joan Parkes (DUP)
Alasdair McDonnell (SDLP)

LAGAN VALLEY

Jeffrey Donaldson (UUP)
David Campbell (UUP)
Ivan Davis (UUP)
Cecil Calvert (DUP)
Edwin Cecil Poots (DUP)

EAST BELFAST

Peter Robinson (DUP)
Sammy Wilson (DUP)
Reg Empey (UUP)
Jim Rogers (UUP)
John Alderdice (All)

WEST BELFAST

Gerry Adams (SF)
Dodie McGuinness (SF)
Alex Maskey (SF)
Annie Armstrong (SF)
Joe Hendron (SDLP)

EAST ANTRIM

Sean Neeson (All)
Jack McKee (DUP)
Margaret Beattie (DUP)
May Steele (UUP)
Thomas Robinson (UUP)

EAST LONDONDERRY

David Brewster (UUP)
John White (UUP)
Robert Bolton (DUP)
Robert Stewart (DUP)
Arthur Doherty (SDLP)

SOUTH ANTRIM

Peter King (UUP)
John Hunter (UUP)
Sam Clyde (DUP)
Trevor Kirkland (DUP)
Donovan McClelland (SDLP)

NORTH ANTRIM

Dr Ian Paisley (DUP)
Ian Paisley Jnr (DUP)
Robert Coulter (UUP)
Joseph Gaston (UUP)
Sean Farren (SDLP)

NEWRY AND ARMAGH

Seamus Mallon (SDLP)
Frank Feeley (SDLP)
Patrick McNamee (SF)
Maria Caraher (SF)
James Speers (UUP)

FOYLE

John Hume (SDLP)
Mark Durkan (SDLP)
John Tierney (SDLP)
Martin McGuinness (SF)
Mitchel McLaughlin (SF)

NORTH BELFAST

Nigel Dodds (DUP)
William Snoddy (DUP)
Gerry Kelly (SF)
Alban Maginness (SDLP)
David Browne (UUP)

NORTH DOWN

Peter Weir (UUP)
Alan McFarland (UUP)
Robert McCartney (UKU)
St Clair McAlister (DUP)
Sir Oliver Napier (All)

FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE

Ken Maginnis (UUP)
Sam Foster (UUP)
Maurice Morrow (DUP)
Tommy Gallagher (SDLP)
Gerry McHugh (SF)

SOUTH DOWN

Eddie McGrady (SDLP)
Hugh Carr (SDLP)
Margaret Ritchie (SDLP)
Michael Murphy (SF)
Dermot Nesbitt (UUP)

MID ULSTER

Francie Molloy (SF)
Patsy McGlone (SDLP)
William McCrea (DUP)
John Junkin (UUP)
Patrick E Groogan (SF)

UPPER BANN

David Trimble (UUP)

Sam Gardiner (UUP)

Brid Rogers (SDLP) John Gorman

Mervyn Carrick (DUP) Anthony Alcock

Michelle O'Connor (SF)

SDLP

Jonathan Stephenson

Corita Field

WEST TYRONE

UUP

Gregory Campbell

Joe Byrne (SDLP) Eric Smyth

Paddy McGowan (SDLP)

Derek Hussey (UUP) Lucille Shreatnach

Oliver Gibson (DUP) E. Doherty

Barry McElduff (SF)

Alliance

Seamus Close

Eileen Bell

UK Unionist

Cedric Wilson

Conor Cruise O'Brien

PUP

Rugh Smyth

David Irvine

SDP

Gary McMichael

John White

NI Women's

Monica McWilliams

Coalition

Pearl Sagar

Labour

Malachi Curran

Rugh Casey

REGIONAL LISTS

UUP

John Gorman
Anthony Alcock

SDLP

Jonathan Stephenson
Dorita Field

DUP

Gregory Campbell
Eric Smyth

Sinn Fein

Lucilita Bhreatnach
Pat Doherty

Alliance

Seamus Close
Eileen Bell

UK Unionist

Cedric Wilson
Conor Cruise O'Brien

PUP

Hugh Smyth
David Ervine

UDP

Gary McMichael
John White

NI Women's
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