

84- E 8 JUL 96

Neep  
jui

(11)

CONFIDENTIAL

HCS/673/96



FROM: C P SALTERS  
PS/SIR DAVID FELL  
4 JULY 1996

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B  
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B  
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B  
Mr Legge - B  
Mr Ray - B  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Leach (B&L) - B  
Mr Steele - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Wood (B&L) - B  
Mr Stephens - B  
Mr Hill (B&L) - B *me Hill to see*  
Mr Cornick - B  
Mr Lavery - B  
Mr Budd, Cabinet Office - B  
Mr Lamont, RID - B  
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B

*AW*  
*GH*  
*DKC*  
*Will clear Dave*

MR MCKERVILL - B

## WHO GUARDS THE GUARDIAN?/DINING ARRANGEMENTS

Sir David was interested to note the last paragraph of your note of 3 July to Peter Bell in which you suggest that some of the more senior British Officials and possibly Ministers might make more use of the Talks canteen.

This issue was referred to yesterday, in slightly mocking terms, by Sean O'hUiginn, who came into the Secretary of State's room while Michael Ancram and British officials were eating lunch. "We eat with the plebs in the canteen." was his comment! Coincidentally, Willie McCrea also mentioned to Michael Ancram that he had observed that, while the Irish Government always ate with the SDLP, the British Government were notable by their absence from the canteen.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir David believes yours is a very valid point and agrees that we should try harder to mix with the delegations.

Signed Clare Salters

CLARE SALTERS

#### DRUMCREE MARCH: OUP VIEWS

As discussed on the telephone, David Trimble and the Reverend Martin Smyth called on me this morning to ensure that No 10 was aware of their concerns about possible violence surrounding the Drumcree March. The discussion covered much the same ground as recorded in Paul Wilkinson's note of the meeting on 29 June between Trimble and Sir John Wheeler.

Trimble's main point was that the Unionist community, and the Loyalists, would not accept the re-routing of the parade. For various reasons, Unionist opinion was volatile, and at least some of the Loyalists were looking for trouble. This was not just a question of Unionist and Loyalist opinion in Farnham, but across the community in Northern Ireland. Trimble feared that if the parade was re-routed, there would be a violent Unionist/Loyalist backlash, which could include real trouble in Nationalist areas. That would then give the IRA an excuse to come in with violence of its own, acting as the defenders of Nationalist areas. He was convinced there was a serious risk of trouble and of major consequences flowing from it.

Trimble accepted that a decision to allow the parade to take its normal route down the Garvaghy Road would also result in trouble. There was no doubt that the PPs were stirring up the local Nationalist community - with limited success, in Trimble's view - because most were SDLP voters and not supporters of trouble. He realised that the RUC would not want to be seen as intervening against the Nationalist community, but this was still a major risk that he was aware of. He thought thousands of how many would be there and that they would be armed. He thought the Garvaghy Road was a very narrow road and that it was very difficult to see what was going on in the crowd.

CONFIDENTIAL

DR/72330