

Meeting of Irish Officials With UUP Delegation (2) 17 September 1996, 6.45 pm

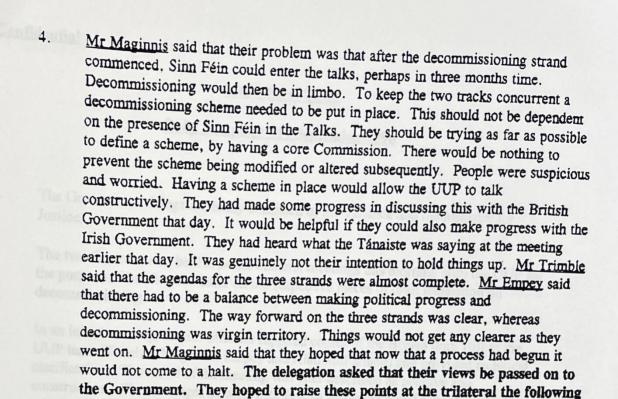
Present

Irish Officials UUP Delegation

Paul Hickey David Trimble
David Cooney Ken Maginnis
Brendan Callaghan Reg Empey
Peter King

- 1. The meeting was a continuation of the technical meeting on the Irish Draft
 Decommissioning Bill which took place between officials and the UUP delegation
 earlier that day. Mr Hickey explained the main features of the Draft Bill, including
 the main differences between it and the British Draft Bill.
- 2. The UUP delegation asked a number of questions and made a number of points.

 The main items of note were:
 - Mr Trimble suggested that the Draft Bill make provision for verification in each of the four decommissioning scenarios. Mr Hickey said that regulations under the legislation would be able to do this.
 - Mr Trimble asked whether the prohibition on the taking of criminal proceedings against persons decommissioning, in respect of decommissioning, was drawn more narrowly in the Irish than in the British Draft Bill. Mr Hickey explained that the effect would be the same under both sets of legislation. The British regulations would contain provisions which would be in the Irish Act.
 - Mr Trimble noted that the Irish Draft Bill had no difficulty in referring to forensic testing without definition of the term.
 - Mr Magennis and Mr Trimble referred to what they regarded as a tendency to eccentric decisions by Courts in our jurisdiction and enquired whether this would pervert the freedoms in the Draft Bill. Mr Hickey said that the Act would not be relying on the Courts, but on the people taking possession of arms.
- 3. Mr Empey said that the final decommissioning schemes would have to be drawn up involving the Commission and some of the participants. He asked whether the Irish side had discussed different scenarios with the NIO. Mr Hickey said that in the preparation of the Draft Bills both the Irish and British sides had tried to anticipate a number of different scenarios. This had been a thinking through of the sketchy indications provided in the International Body's report. How the regulations looked would depend on how much will be written into them and how much would be left to the discretion of the Commission.



clarises on fond are to continue this at a follow-up specing later redse). The titip team then met the Tavarate and the Minister for lastice. A detailed note on this

B Callaghan intension to muse the hurdles in relation to the total and a communication and other supports of the lagislation envisored by both Coverage and