

20 May 1997 18:18

S OF S PRIVATE OFFICE 1712106722

No. 5380 P. 2/2

CONFIDENTIAL

cc ~~PS~~
✓ ~~Res~~

Rights & European Division

From Tony Beeton
20 May 1997

DESK IMMEDIATE

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

File
for
20/5.

cc PS/Mr Ingram
PS/Mr Murphy
PS/PUS
PS/Sir David Fell
Mr Thomas
Mr Steele
Mr Ray
Mr Bell
Mr Leach
Mr Watkins
Mr Wood
Mr Brooker
Mr Hill
Mr Maccabe
Mr Lavery
Mr Perry
Mr Holmes, No 10
Mr Budd, Cabinet Office

MEETING WITH SINN FEIN

I have just completed negotiations with Siobhan O'Hanlon about tomorrow's meeting with Sinn Fein.

2. We agreed the meeting will be at noon tomorrow in Stormont Castle. Sinn Fein will field a delegation led by Martin McGuinness including Gerry Kelly, Caoimhghin O Caolain and Siobhan O'Hanlon herself. I confirmed that Quentin Thomas would lead for us with Jonathan Stephens and Chris Maccabe.
3. We agreed that since the media appeared to know already that a meeting was planned for tomorrow (and we both strenuously denied any responsibility for leaking that fact in advance of final agreement today) it would be futile to attempt to keep the fact of the meeting confidential until after it had happened. Therefore both sides might confirm that a meeting was to take place at noon tomorrow. Sinn Fein's response to the point I had put to her at the weekend about the conditions set out in Dr Mowlam's letter to Gerry Adams came in the form of a reply to that letter which has been circulated earlier this afternoon.
4. Finally I confirmed that Robert Crawford would act as her contact for the details of arrangements on the ground and that he would telephone her shortly to discuss them. (Mr Crawford has just confirmed to me that he has spoken to O'Hanlon who will liaise with him tomorrow morning.)

(signed)

Tony Beeton

1

CONFIDENTIAL

acb.9705204.sinn fein