

Prime Minister.

Visit to Northern Ireland.

This is the letter from Ken Stone I mentioned earlier. It outlines a programme and it encloses the skeleton of a speech (which would be televised).

I have been across to see him this evening to say :-

a. You want to visit a couple of factories this time (I don't know why the programme does not already provide for this, since I suggested it in my first talk with Ken about the visit a fortnight ago). He is now going to try to find two suitable firms you could go to on the Friday morning. You would then go to Kinniskillin for lunch and the afternoon.

b. You want to meet the Fenagh workers again. No problem here: you could see them in Kinniskillin.

You now need to decide :-

a. Are you ready to go over on a Thursday evening as the programme assumes? Or would you prefer to go and return on a Friday? The programme can be accepted quite early: ~~the~~ your speech

Thomson.  
cc.

should be made at a lunch for the  
same people as for the Thursday evening  
dinner.

b. The preferred date for the visit is  
Thursday 5 March / Friday 6 March. This  
is the week after your American visit.  
The dates are all right from the diary  
point of view. Agree to go there?

c. Are you broadly content with the  
outline of the speech? Mr Atkins  
has now seen it and has approved  
it. If you are happy, we will have  
it filled out and turned into a  
speech paper.

AKW

1952

Yes not

Yes  
The 1st. Republic  
fact needs  
more sensitive  
handwriting

SECRET and PERSONAL.

2



Permanent Under Secretary

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Thursday, 19 February.

Dear Clive.

Herewith material promised - two copies.  
Humphrey Atkins is fully informed and  
content but has not yet had a chance to read the  
outline for a speech.

The Chief Constable and GDC know  
and warmly welcome the proposal. The C.C.  
in particular would like to see the programme include  
the two main elements shown, namely the visit to  
Zetmanagh (Bunishilla) and a "public" meeting in  
Belfast with the Lord Mayor present. He is wholly  
content on security aspects.

Cover would be provided to the last  
minute by the Secretary of State.

As to date, strong advice from the  
C.C. to use the first date, and make it  
overnight, i.e. draft programme 1. Date of St.  
Patrick's Day is relevant.

The "nugget" of real news embodied  
in para. C.1. of the outline speech (Electricity

prices) will be of great significance to industry and industrialists. We are in agreement with Treasury on this. Anthony Rowlinson knows, and supports the idea that it should be announced on a special occasion next month (but doesn't know detail, of course).

When you have digested, you may want me to fill in some of the background for you before you come P.M.; and you will want to consider whether a speech on these lines is acceptable to her.

Yours,

Ken.

Clive Whitman Esq.

Thursday

15.00 EITHER (i) Depart Northolt (Mr. Whitelaw to answer Questions)

16.00 Arrive Aldergrove  
Helicopter to Stormont Castle

OR (ii)

17.00 Depart Northolt

18.00 Arrive (?) Sydenham/Aldergrove

Helicopter to Stormont Castle

18.15 Meeting with the Secretary of State and security advisers

19.00-19.30 Time to change

19.30 for 20.00 Dinner at Parliament Buildings - TV coverage (see note attached on guests)

Overnight at Hillsborough Castle

Friday

09.15 Helicopter Hillsborough to Enniskillen

10.00-11.00 Visit RUC Training Centre at Enniskillen

11.15-12.15 Visit Security Forces on the Fermanagh border

EITHER

13.00 (i) Lunch at Army Mess at St. Angelo base

OR

13.00 (ii) Return by helicopter to Enniskillen for lunch with local dignatories

14.30 Helicopter St. Angelo or Enniskillen to Aldergrove

15.00 Depart Aldergrove

16.00 Arrive Northolt

*I have told the NIO you can leave after Questions, if you go over on the Thursday morning.*

E. R.

SECRET

DRAFT PROGRAMME 2

09.15approx	Arrive Aldergrove Helicopter to Enniskillen
10.00-11.00	Visit RUC Training Centre at Enniskillen
11.15	Visit Security Forces on the Fermanagh border —
11.45	Helicopter Enniskillen to Stormont Castle
12.30-13.00	Time to change
13.00 for 13.30	Lunch at Parliament Buildings — (see attached note on guests)
15.00	Stormont Castle meeting with the Secretary of State and security advisers
16.00	Helicopter Stormont to Aldergrove
16.30	Take-off from Aldergrove
17.30	Arrive Northolt

SECRET

E. R.

SECRET

OUTLINE GUEST LIST FOR WORKING DINNER (no wives)

Lord Mayor of Belfast  
Lord Mayor of Londonderry  
Chairman of the Police Authority  
Commander Land Forces  
Chief Constable  
Chairman of Housing Executive  
Chairman of NI Electricity Service  
Chairman of CBI  
Chairman of NI Committee of Irish Congress of Trade Unions  
President Ulster Farmers Union  
Chairman Fire Authority  
Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University  
US Consul General  
Head of EEC Information Office  
Leaders of the Official Unionist Party, SDLP and Alliance Party but not DUP (NOTE: the local Member of Parliament is Peter Robinson of the DUP) (?Consult Mr Molyneaux)  
Heads of major financial and industrial undertakings in Northern Ireland

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Total number of guests about 50

SECRET

OUTLINE OF POINTS FOR A SPEECH

Addressing guests as citizens of Ulster and of UK.

A. Economy

A1. Time of great economic difficulty: nowhere more apparent than in Northern Ireland. The Government's strategy designed to re-establish the UK economy on a firm internationally competitive basis, so that we can pay our way and buy the goods and services we want.

A2. Ulster is a place which responds to the idea that we are going to stand on our own feet. No other way forward for Northern Ireland any more than for the rest of the United Kingdom.

B. Europe and Opportunity

B1. Our future is the future of a trading nation, within the EEC. EEC has its problems and opportunities. Problems, e.g. fisheries, budget. Opportunity is a protected market of 200m people. Major trading partners are now in the Community: Germany our biggest export market; coming nearer home Republic of Ireland our 5th biggest market, and we are their biggest.

B2. Problems can be overcome: straightening out our budget contribution. UK in general and Northern Ireland in particular can only benefit from this: sustains public expenditure we could not otherwise afford (additionality). HMG has fully recognised the special problems of Northern Ireland and has been prepared to see a much higher rate of public expenditure



in NI than in the rest of the UK because of these problems.

C. Energy and Industrial Development

C1. How do we exploit opportunities? Difficulty which Northern Ireland faces, unlike the rest of the United Kingdom, is lack of energy resources. We have given much attention to this and have decided that we must, [ over the next ... years put NI in the position where its electricity costs for industry and domestic consumers will be on same basis as for GB. Note: Decision on formulation of this to be settled in E(EA) next week. ]

D. Republic of Ireland

D1. Have talked about economy because of pressing importance to people in NI. Have set in UK context because NI part of UK and because that is what majority still want. Reaffirmation of constitutional position in terms of 1973 Act. My message to people of NI will continue to be, as it has been hitherto, "we shall not forget you".

D2. It is in that spirit that HMG is concerned to develop a new and positive relationship with the Republic of Ireland. No conspiracy; no sell out. Meetings with the Prime Minister of the Republic do not and cannot bear that interpretation.

D3. Two Prime Ministers determined to reverse drift apart of last 60 years. Common interests in peace and reconciliation, and in a society where the gunman has no place, where he is will no longer be able to kill and maim. Common interest in building new relationships within these islands and within Europe.

D4. Governments not prepared to be deflected from this course. It threatens no-one and people of Northern Ireland, as UK as a whole, stand only to gain.

E. Security

E1. Government determined to go on protecting people of NI from all kinds of terrorism. Firm rejection of idea that successive British Governments have been less than wholehearted in their commitment or that Police and Army have been less than professional and skilful. Pay tribute especially to RUC under leadership of an Ulster Police Authority and an Ulster Chief Constable.

E2. Reaffirm commitment until terrorism is eradicated: confident of continuing and increasing effective co-operation from South.

F. Hunger Strike and Paisley's Marches

F1. Hunger strike. Government will stand firm. Can never recognise political murder, political bombing or political intimidation by a mob. Hunger strikers can gain nothing: they can only ignite fresh fires of hatred.

F2. Other threats to law and order from those who oppose Government's constructive policy in relation to the Republic of Ireland. Already have made clear that there is nothing to fear; and nothing to gain by threats of intimidation; the rule of law applies to everyone.

G. Conclusions

G1. HMG believes that the future of the people of Northern Ireland can and will be secure and hopeful. We can together support the security forces against terrorism and defeat it. We can together build bridges between all sections of the community in NI and within these islands. We can together rebuild the trade and commerce of the UK in Europe. We can look forward.