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John Hillier
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✓	MR F MURRAY
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Counsellor. At

30 September 1995

No of pages including this one: 3

[This letter in with Sir Robin Butler's statement to me that Angram was getting a better response from S.F. than before and that...

To: HQ
For: Second Secretary O hUiginn

From: Belfast
From: Brendan Callaghan

...doing his well in this area.]

Sinn Fein Meeting with Michael Ancram 28 September 1995

1. Martin Williams has given me a briefing on the meeting in Derry, which took place at Martin McGuinness's request. McGuinness was accompanied by Gerry Kelly (a fact which was not publicised). Ancram was accompanied by Quentin Thomas. The meeting lasted about an hour and the location (which Williams did not know) was arranged through an intermediary. The atmosphere was good, with no hint of crisis. There was no mention of Saturday's SF meeting in Dublin. No date was set for another meeting, but Williams said that "he would not be surprised" if another meeting took place next week.
2. Williams summarised the main points of the meeting as follows: Ancram emphasised the total commitment of the British Government to finding a way forward. McGuinness probed the role and terms of the International Commission. He stressed that a target date should be set for all-party talks without preconditions. He raised the possibility of a trilateral meeting between Sinn Fein and the two Governments. Ancram's response was that this would have to be discussed with the Irish Government. McGuinness said that he was ready to consider working on a text on the way forward with the British Government.
3. McGuinness said that what was desperately needed was a date for all-party talks at which all would be present. The meeting was an attempt to explore how this might be achieved. Ancram responded that it was essential to have the right conditions for this. The work on the twin track scheme was an attempt to work through the problems. The British Government was not looking for a prior commitment from either side to accept the Commission's findings. While the Commission would recognise the danger of the perception that any side was surrendering, it must be able to meet the needs of both sides.
4. On the question of setting a date for talks, Ancram said that while there was a need to get the conditions (Washington 1, 2 and 3) right before talks, the Commission would not tie people to a timetable for Washington 3. A target date would have to

be agreed with the Irish Government. The date of the end of the year was originally envisaged in the context of a Summit taking place at the beginning of September. It might therefore slip somewhat. Questioned by McGuinness on whether the British envisaged that Washington 3 would be met after the Commission had met, Ancram said that they would look at the recommendations of the Commission on their merits. It was important not to forget the concerns of the unionist parties.

- 5. McGuinness did not put forward any new proposals, but said that he and Ancram could negotiate on this. He reiterated that SF itself had no arms.



[Handwritten initials]

(4)

NORTHERN IRELAND
Information Service

28 September 1995

FURTHER MEETING WITH SINN FEIN

The Minister for Political Development, Michael Ancram MP, supported by a senior official, met Mr Martin McGuinness this morning, at Sinn Fein's request.

They discussed the current political situation and agreed that they would be ready to have further meetings.

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