



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/99/18

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Accession Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

PSM, PBS, S/S Ó hUiginn.
Counsellors A-I, Mr Teahon,
Mr Dalton, Dr Mansergh
Ambassadors London &
Washington, Joint Secretary,
Section, Box

(2)
Confidential

Possible IRA Statement: Suggestions by Contacts

18 July 1997

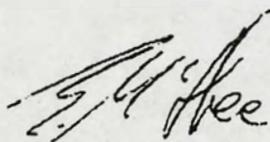
1. Caoimhín Ó Murchú, a well placed republican in Derry who works closely with Gerry O'Hara, phoned me this morning (10.00 am). He indicated that the IRA was going to announce some form of ceasefire and suggested that it was imminent. I asked him about the 'd' word - he said that they were evidently satisfied with the clarifications given.
2. A former member of the IRA who stays in regular touch with currently active members called Brendan McAllister this morning to say that the IRA would announce a ceasefire tonight or tomorrow morning. McAllister's contact, who has been very reliable in the past, made the following points:
 - The statement would be based on the IRA's satisfaction with the clarifications received from the British Government.
 - Asked whether the IRA statement would involve another round of clarifications, the contact said that the statement would be based on their firm understanding that Sinn Féin would enter the talks in September.
 - The IRA had demonstrated its capacity last week to plunge Northern Ireland into civil war. They had been prepared to do that but the Orange Order had pulled back from the brink. The IRA was now satisfied that it had demonstrated its capacity for mayhem to the security chiefs.
 - The contact said that the political process would then have until May. Asked if that meant that the IRA would resume its campaign then if need be, the contact indicated in the affirmative saying that if the IRA was being messed around with again, they would resume.

(3)

2

The statement was planned for next week but this had been moved up to discomfit Trimble and highlight his "antics" at the moment.

3. SDLP Councillor Alex Atwood said that there was no hint of any movement in Belfast. He tended to agree that this may not be significant when I suggested that the rank and file have been prepped on a ceasefire since August 1994 and that the real move was now with the Army Council - hence the lack of any need for a sales campaign within the ranks. By this afternoon, Atwood reported that BBC journalists were becoming aware of a statement but seem to believe that it would not be a clear cease-fire announcement.



Eamonn McKee

Security Section

18 July 1997