

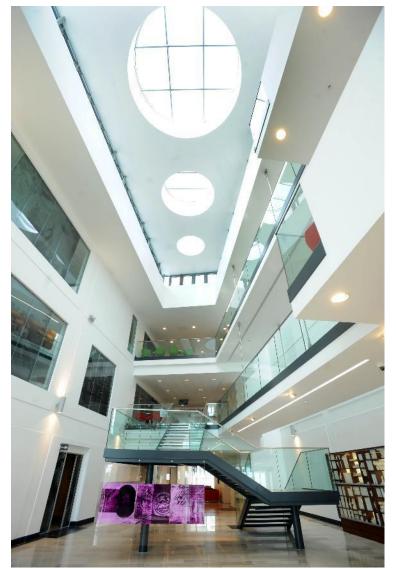
PRONI and CAIN Using Conflict Archives

David Huddleston

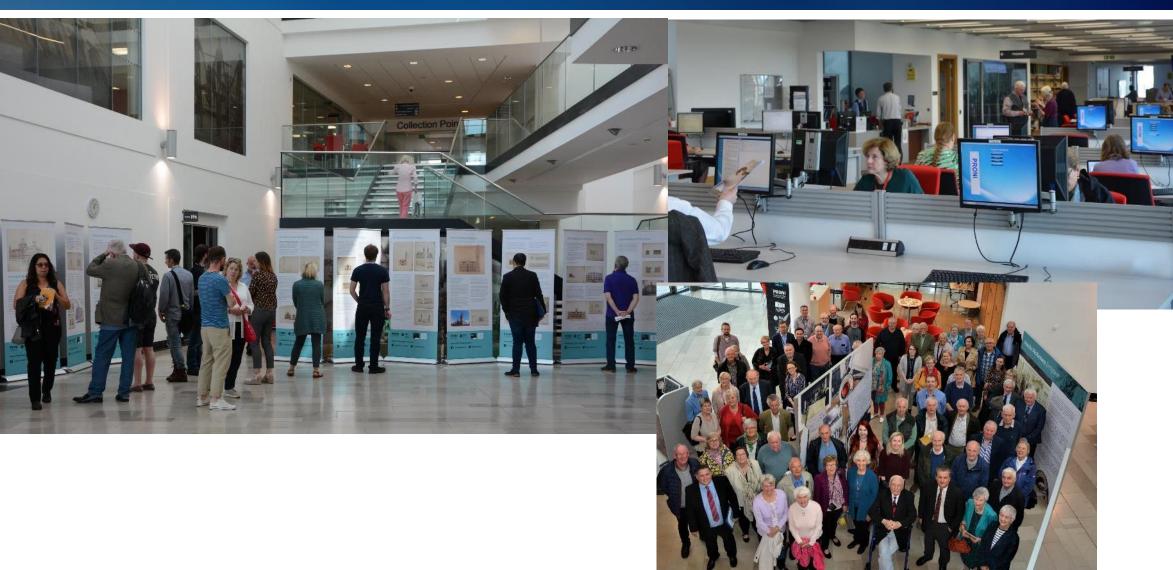




The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)











- PRONI Public Records Act (NI) 1923
- Disposal of Documents Orders 1925
- **Data Protection Legislation**
- Freedom of Information Act 2000



Public Records Act (Northern Ireland) 1923 F1

1923 CHAPTER 20

An Act to establish a Public Record Office of Northern Ireland for the reception and preservation of certain public records appertaining to Northern Ireland, and for purposes [22nd June 1923] connected therewith.

WHEREAS it is provided by sub-section (2) of section nine of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920 MI, as modified in its application to Northern Ireland by or in pursuance of the Irish Free State (Consequential Provisions) Act, 1922 M2 (Session 2), that the Public Record Office of Ireland shall be for the purposes of the said Government of Ireland Act a reserved matter, but that nothing in the said sub-section shall prevent the Parliament or Government of Northern Ireland establishing a Public Record Office of Northern Ireland for the reception and preservation of public records appertaining to Northern Ireland which otherwise would be deposited in the Public Record Office of Ireland, and that, if a Public Record Office of Northern Ireland is so established, provision may be made by the Governor of Northern Ireland for the removal to that Office of such probates, letters of administration or other testamentary records granted or coming into existence not earlier than twenty years prior to the appointed day for the purposes of the said sub-section as in his opinion properly belong to Northern Ireland and can conveniently be removed to that Office:

Annotations:

F1 functions transf. by SR 1999/481

Marginal Citations

M1 1920 c. 67

M2 1922 c 2 (13 Geo. 5 sess 2)

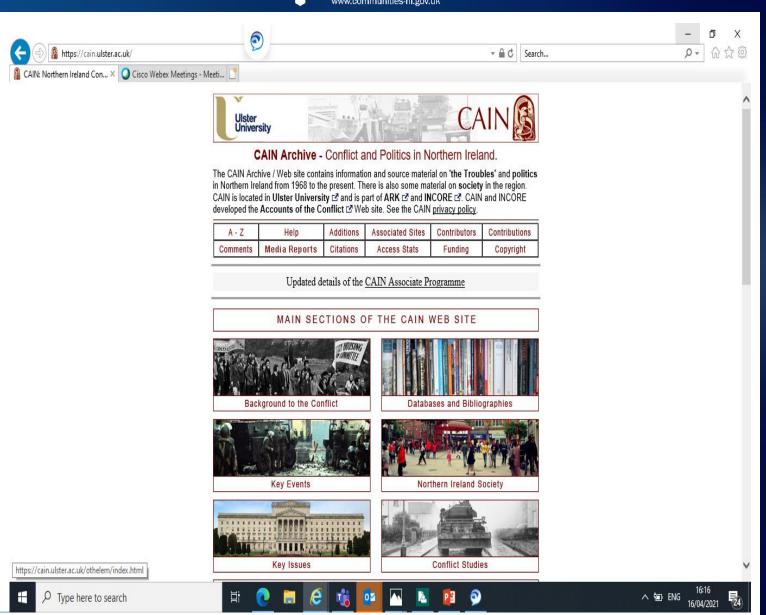
- Economy De Lorean
- Health Aids, abortion
- Social Housing, infrastructure, recreation
- **Education Integrated, Irish language**
- **Environment Chernobyl**
- Agriculture EU subsidies
- **Notes/minutes of meetings**
- **Briefings**
- Correspondence
- Memos
- Reports

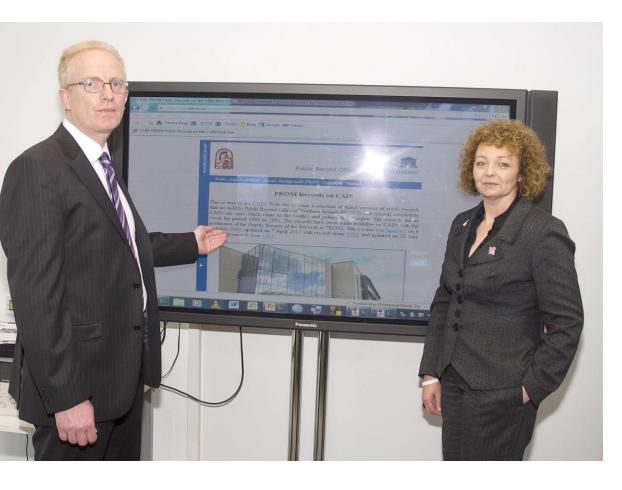




- Chronology of the Conflict
- timeline of events

- Content Key resources
- Sutton Index of Deaths
- Cooperation Events







PRONI on CAIN launch of 1981 documents -2012

Launch of PRONI on CAIN - 2010

PUBLIC ORDER ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1951

WHEREAS I, The Right Honourable WILLIAM CRAIG, Minister of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland, am of opinion that the holding, on Saturday, 5th October, 1968, of any public processions or meetings in certain parts of the County Borough of Londonderry may give rise to serious public disorder:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, The Right Homourable WILLIAM CRAIG, Minister of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by Section 2(2) of the Public Order Act (Northern Ireland) 1951, do hereby order that the holding, on Saturday, 5th October, 1968, of all public processions or moetings in any public highway, road, street or public place in that part of the County Borough of Londonderry situated within and on the Walls, and in the Waterside Ward of the said County Borough, be prohibited.

En lains

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

3rd October, 1968.

3 Oct. 1968 William Craig,
Minister of Home Affairs,
prohibiting the holding on
Saturday 5 October 1968, of all
public processions or meetings
within and on the Walls and in
the Waterside Ward...

4 Oct. 1968 Greeves, Home Affairs to Woods, Home Office, ...the CRA is composed largely of people opposed to the Constitution of NI – and, despite its title, is regarded by many – and rightly so – as having aims which are largely Nationalistic...



Pobal

Commonities





FROM: J. E. Greeves, Ministry of Home Affairs, Stormont.

TO: W. Ivan Woods, Home Office, London.

Like Belfast and certain other towns in Northern Ireland, there are, in the City of Derry, certain parts which are the traditional preserve of one or other of the political parties or, perhaps to express it more accurately, of those who support the Constitution of Northern Ireland and of those who wish to see Northern Ireland absorbed into a United Republic of Ireland.

The Civil Rights Association, which, it is understood, is composed of members of the Londonderry Housing Action Committee, the Republican Party (which includes known members of the I.R.A. and Sinn Fein - two proscribed organisations) and the Young Socialists, gave notice to the police of its intention to hold, on Saturday next the 5th October, a parade starting at the railway station, which is in the Waterside part of the City, and processing through certain streets in the Waterside, over the Craigavon Bridge and via Abercorn Road and Bishop Street to the Diamond, where they proposed to hold a meeting. The War Memorial is in the Diamond, and the Diamond, and part of Bishop Street, are within the Walls of the ancient City.

Both the Waterside and the parts of the City within the Walls have for long by custom been sections of the City where Nationalists organisations, or organisations with similar political views, do not parade. The residents in these parts are largely Protestant and the police are of the opinion that, if the Civil Rights Association were permitted to hold their parade through these sections, serious disorder could well result. The Civil Rights Association is composed largely of persons opposed to the Constitution of Northern Ireland and, despite its title, is regarded by many - and rightly so - as having aims which are largely Nationalistic, although these are cloaked by other alleged pretentions.

In view of the disorder which might result if the processions were allowed to take place, the police recommended that it should not be allowed to process through the two parts of the City mentioned above, and accordingly the Minister made an Order prohibiting the holding of all processions and meetings in those two parts of the City on Saturday next. There is, of course, a large section of the City outside these two parts, and it has been made clear to the organisers of the procession that they are free to hold processions and meetings anywhere in the City apart from the two parts mentioned.

Another complication is an arrangement made some considerable time ago for a party of some fifty members of the Liverpool Branch of the Apprentice Boys to travel to Londonderry on Saturday next. They are coming over for the initiation of new members (which under the rules of the organisation must take place within the City Walls) and they originally intended to travel by train from Belfast to Londonderry, arriving at approximately 3.30 p.m. - the time when the Civil Rights

/Association

CONFIDENTIAL

The Chief Minister summed up by saying that there was not a concensus view, but a majority view, that the Executive should open communication with the strikers, preferably by way of mediation. He would report that view to the Secretary of State.

The Minister of Commerce stated that he did not favour that course of action.

(The meeting adjourned at 12 30 pm and reassembled at 1 35 pm).

The Chief Minister reported that he had spoken to the Secretary of State who had said clearly that he was not prepared to agree to mediation. The Chief Minister had then offered his resignation and those of his Unionist colleagues, and the Secretary of State had accepted them. The Secretary of State had then requested that the leaders of the other two parties should speak to him.

Ministers exchanged good wishes and expressed their mutual sorrow that the great co-operative and, to that point, very successful effort which had been made by all of them should have ended in this way. They regretted that on this last occasion they had not been able to act in complete unity as they had invariably done before on so many difficult issues. They agreed that they would do everything possible to avoid all personal or political recrimination and that they would not deviate one jot or tittle from the principles on which the Executive was founded.

Office of the Executive Stormont

3 June 1974

CONFIDENTIAL

28 May 1974 – 'Ministers exchanged good wishes and expressed their mutual sorrow that the great cooperative work, to that point, very successful effort which had been made by all of them should have ended in this way. They regret that on this last occasion they had not been able to act in complete unity as they had invariably done before on so many different issues. They agreed that they would do everything possible to avoid all personal or political recrimination...'

https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/proni/1974/proni OE-2-32 1974-05-28.pdf

Comrades and Brothers in the common cause of liberty, the British occupation of Ireland is a womb which has given birth to many a shameful episode but to-days H Block and Armagh Womans Prison Barbarity must surely stand forth as a clear embodiment of all that is repugnant in superialist repression, for almost 5 years a concerted campaign of torture and barbarity has been waged against naked and defenseless Republican socialist prisoners who simply refuse to yield to Britains policy of criminalisation. This policy enacted in 1976 was designed to internationally depoliticise the war of liberation being waged on the streets of Northern Ireland. We the capture combatants of that war have in spite of constant lock-up, total deprivation of everything but food and bedding and fierce physical assault, resisted all such attempts. In April 1978 we were forced to embark on a no wash type protest to highlight our dire plight. This failed to secure us our rightful political recognition and so on October 27th last we embarked on a H/S. This coupled with world wide pressure was to force the British to come to us with an eleventh hour promise to implementing a just and satisfactory resolution to the problem. We in good faith accepted this promise termed by the British as a strong committment, but much to our horror we were to discover that this had been nothing but an underhand ploy to release the vast amount of political pressure which was facing the British. On learning this we immediately began preparations for another H/S which shall commence on March 1st. Ours is simply the position of those with no choice and so we must once more take our lives in hand in an attempt to assert our just demands. Alone we shall perish but with world wide assistance we shall again a much deserved and glorious victory. I ask you comrades to lend your weight to such an aim, lives are at stake so I beg of you not to flag in your efforts until victory is ours. Victory to the Socialist Revolution. Yours in anticipation.

BOBBY SANDS RSPOW H BLOCKS LONG KESH

Escuse brevity of letter Comrades but due to total restrictions it must be so.

H M/PRISON MAZE 15FEB 1931 SECURITY CLEARATICE Letter found during a wing move from H3 block on 15 Feb. 1981, from Bobby Sands about another H/S which shall commence on March 1st.

Record of 1st meeting 11 Dec. 1985, Mr King '...the reaction of unionists had been more hostile than expected.'

SECRET

IC(85)1

GLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD AT STORMONT CASTLE ON WEDNESDAY,

A: MORNING SESSION

Those Present:

British Side

Mr King Mr Scott Mr Andrew Mr Bloomfield Mr Stephens Mr Brennan Mr Gilliland Mr Elliott Mr Daniell Mr Hewitt Miss Steele

Mr Clark (FCO)

Irish Side

Mr Barry Mr Donlon Mr Lillis Mr O'Tuathail Mr O'Ceallaigh Mr Ryan

Opening Statements

1. Mr King welcomed Mr Barry and his colleagues to the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference. During brief opening statements, both sides looked forward to the successful implementation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement signed at Hillsborough Castle on 15 November. It was agreed that the morning session should be spent considering the political climate in Northern Ireland and reviewing the future work programme of the Conference.

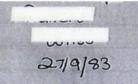
Political Background

2. Mr King said that, whilst the Agreement had received a guarded welcome from the minority community, the reaction of unionists had been much more hostile than expected. Unionists were concerned both at the substance of the Agreement and at the secrecy which had surrounded its negotiation. There would be a difficult time ahead. Northern Ireland Office Ministers were being ostracised by unionist politicians; the Assembly was in disarray with normal business suspended; and the disruption at District Council level continued.

> SECRET page 2 of 10

© PRONI CENT/3/





Dear Prime Minister

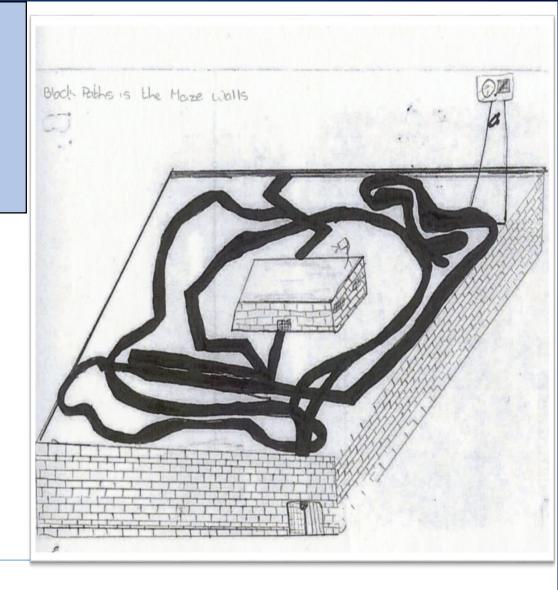
I have just been watching the news on TV about the prisoners escaping from the Maze prison. This word make brought to mind an idea of how to improve the security of prisons in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, by building a make of concrete and bricks around the top security prisons

I enclose a diogram on the following page, of this idea for you to Consider.

Burs faithfully

Age 10

Prisons: Escapes from **HM Prison Maze:** Correspondence NIO/12/514A



CONFIDENTIAL

Brief: C VIII

EXPRESSIONS TO BE AVOIDED (AND NOTES ON OTHER TERMINOLOGY)

A: GEOGRAPHICAL APEAS

UK/GB

E.R.

0

The UK is political expression, Great Britain is a geographical term. Great Britain consist of England, Scotland and Wales: NI is part of the UK (ie the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) but not part of GB. NI people put considerable store by the proper use of the

"The Mainland"

Unacceptable. Reference should be made to "GB".

"Across the Water"

- A local term which refers to Great Britain.

British Isles

- A geographical term including the UK and the Republic, but not popular in the Republic.

- A way of avoiding the problem above.

"These Islands"

Northern Ireland

- Ulster

The 9 county Province of Ulster comprises the 6 counties in NI plus Monaghan, Cavan and Donegal in the Republic of Ireland. The term Ulster is not strictly correct when applied to NI but is nonetheless used by both communities but particularly by Protestants. Best Avoided, save in compounds:

- The 6 Counties

- A term commonly used by the Catholic community and by people of the Republic of Ireland. To be avoided.

- The North of Ireland

- The North

- An acceptable colloquialism used by both communities.

- The Province

- Not strictly accurate but acceptable

'The Mainland' – Unacceptable 'Being out here' – Unacceptable

'Ireland' – Best avoided

'The Republic/The South' – Acceptable

'Prods' – Unacceptable

'Republicans' – To be avoided

'Taioseach' (pronounced Teeshuck) - Acceptable

'British Army' – Unacceptable

'Long Kesh' - Unacceptable

E.R.

CONFIDENTIAL

- West/East of the Bann

The Upper and Lower Bann divide Northern Ireland from North to South. East of the Bann are counties Down and Antrim, which are heavily populated and Protestant dominated.

West of the Bann are Counties Armagh, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone which are more sparsely populated (together they hold only 36% of the population) and the overall community contains slightly more Catholics than Protestants.

- Orange/Green Areas

- The term "Orange" (Orange Order etc) applies to Protestant/Unionist areas. The term "Green" refers to Catholics. Nationalist. Neither term is acceptable publicly but is common shorthand, in private conversation.

- Londonderry/Derry

Londonderry is the correct terminology for the City as it is enshrined in a Royal Charter, although usually used by Protestants, and "Derry" by Catholics. Both communities are however proud to be called "Derrymen". The Protestant (Church of Ireland) bishop is Bishop of 'Derry and Raphoe'. The District Council is now named "Derry City Council" chosen by a majority vote of the Council to the fury of unionist councellors.

"Being out here"

- Unacceptable. This is provocative. - The phrase "being over here" is more often used, but should be avoided.

The Republic of Ireland

- The Republic/The South

- Both are acceptable colloquialisms.

- The 26 Counties

- A term used largely by the Catholic population. Unacceptable for Minister's

- The Free State

- Official name of Republic 1922-37. Sometimes used as a slightly derogatory term particularly used by extreme republicans. No longer in common usage Unacceptable.

- Ireland

- A term with an all-Ireland connotation. Best avoided

CONFIDENTIAL

CONTLLETIAS



17 June 1991 – Speech of John Hume to the First Plenary Session of Strand 1 of the Talks (CENT/1/20/51A)

'Our community has been in turmoil for almost a quarter of a century. The statistics of the dead and the maimed have been rehearsed so often, that we have become desensitised as a community to the full horrors of the pain and suffering they represent.'

Stable relationships have never existed between the peoples represented around this table...We have been quick to lay blame, and adamantly unforgiving.

We have never been short of extremists who believe that force is the answer. That violence is the only effective means of settling matters.

If we are to succeed in resolving our differences. Then we must face those differences honestly and directly...Neither of us can change what we are. What we can, and must, change are our attitudes, our intolerance of difference, our repeating pushing of difference to the point of division. We must being by accepting each other for what we are, accepting that we each have an absolute right to be what we are and that we cannot, either of us, change, what we are...'

https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/proni/1991/proni_CENT-1-20-51A_1991-06-17d.pdf

DESK IMMEDIATE



PS/Secretary of State (L&B) cc: PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) Miss Collins, Cabinet Office REF NO: XD/R1

EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE: RECORD OF FIRST MEETING, 9 DECEMBER 1994

The first meeting of exploratory dialogue with Sinn Fein began at 10.45 am on Friday 9 December 1994 in Parliament Buildings, Belfast. Present were Quentin Thomas, head of the Government team, Stephen Leach, David Watkins, Chris Maccabe, Jonathan Stephens, and Tony Beeton (Secretary). The Sinn Fein side was led by Martin McGuinness with Lucilita Bhreatnach, Gerry Kelly (Secretary), Sean McManus and Siobhan O'Hanlon (notetaker).

Quentin Thomas began by observing the disparity in name plates on the table with Sinn Fein's including forenames while the Government side was more formally identified. Martin McGuinness countered that they had observed another disparity in that none of CONFIDENTIAL SIL/EM/24748

Record of first meeting with Sinn Fein – 9 December 1994

...Mr McGuinness then asked Mr Thomas how Fred was (an allusion to the contact between the Government and the Provisionals during 1992). Mr Thomas said he did not know. Mr McGuinness replied 'I think you do'. Mr Thomas said that he knew who was meant but did not know how he was.'

'I am conscious of a moment of history...The past hangs like a chain around Ireland's neck.'

CONFIDENTIAL

the Government delegation were women. Mr McGuinness then asked Mr Thomas how Fred was [an allusion to the contact between the Government and the Provisionals during 1992]. Mr Thomas said he did not know. Mr McGuinness replied "I think you do". Mr Thomas said that he knew who was meant but did not know how he was.

Moving quickly to close what had been a somewhat contrived exchange Mr Thomas said that he would make a few opening remarks

"Before turning to our agenda, may I say a few words of welcome. I am conscious of a moment of history. But history forms a gulf between us. It is both what divides us and what we have in common. The past hangs like a chain around Ireland's neck, and around Britain's too. The enterprise we begin is to find an accommodation, a reconciliation where these old links become benign and agreed. We must find a way to bury, with dignity, the sacrifices, mistakes and horrors of the past. We share a responsibility - as we have acknowledged before - to work to end the conflict, to secure peace and to look to the

Because so much history does lie between us, there is also scope for recrimination. But I hope we can avoid that in this dialogue, because it serves little purpose. We shall seek to avoid the politics of recrimination. (We may not manage to do so altogether.)

On the contrary we shall approach this dialogue in a straight forward way. Where there are differences, as of course there are, we should acknowledge them and work our way round. We shall seek to be constructive. There will be no tricks and no gimmicks. Both sides are suspicious and cautious - no doubt with good reason - and we should proceed step by step. Finding our differences is easy: seeking agreement harder. We shall

SIL/EM/24748

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED - VISITS

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

PS/Mr Moss (DOE, DHSS&L) - B

PS/PUS (B&L) - B

Mr Thomas - B Mr Legge - B

Mr Semple, DFP

Mr Bell - B

Mr Loughran, DED Mr Spence, DOE

Mr Wood (B&L) - B

Mr Maccabe - B

Mr Gamble, DED

Mr Mallon, IDB Mr Dalton, FCO

Mr Lamont, RID, FCO - B

Ms Checksfield - B

Mr McCartney - B PS/Ladv Mayhew - B

Mr Todd, IFI

Mrs Brown - B Mr Stephens - B

PS/Sir David Fell - B

PS/Sir John Wheeler (DFP, B&L) - B PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L) - B

PS/Baroness Denton (DED, DANI&L) - B

293

FROM: M T H MAXWELL AS CENT SEC

DATE: 10 NOVEMBER 1995

gus. Harita Ric Crlow

> Mr McKervill - B Miss Steele - B Mrs Butler, FCO Mr Woods - B Mr McAleer - B Mr Gibbons - B Mr Westmacott, Washington Mr Alexander, NIB Mr Reid, BIS New York

Chief Superintendent R Long Superintendent H Irvine MR WATKINS - B

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND: THE BELFAST TREELIGHTING CEREMONY

1. I had a meeting last night with Mr Brian Morrison, Head of Leisure Services, Belfast City Council, to discuss plans for the treelighting ceremony in Belfast on 30 November.

RESTRICTED - VISITS

RC/17765

© PRONI DED/21/4/1

Central Secretariat memo – 10 November 1995 – President Clinton's visit to NI. The Belfast Treelighting Ceremony.

'The event will be a spectacular one, probably the biggest Belfast has ever seen. All we need now is a Christmas Tree!'

RESTRICTED - VISITS

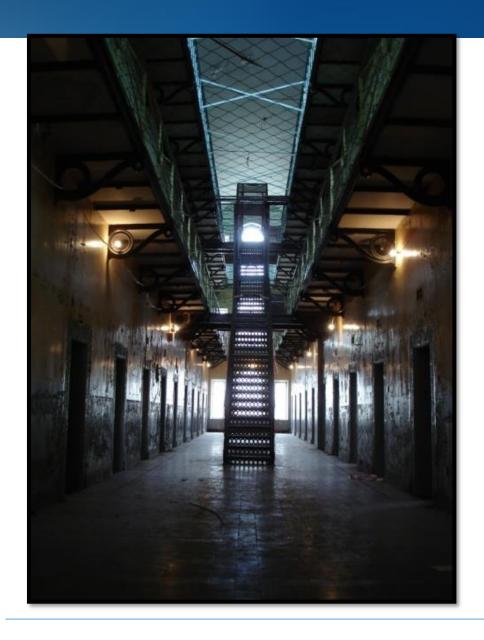
- Current plans envisage that the President will enter by the Donegall Square East entrance of the City Hall. He will meet the City fathers; sign the visitors' book; and then proceed out of the front entrance of the City Hall mounting a glass bullet-proofed stage at the very front of the building. The President would then address the assembled throng and eventually switch on the lights. There will be entertainment (in the form of John Anderson Big Band). The President may or may not physically visit the US war memorial which will be placed at the front of the City Hall, or he may mention it in his speech (timed for 10-15 minutes).
- 3. The Americans have suggested that the area closest to the President should be ticketed, although the Council does not believe that this would be feasible. There will also be big screens erected at the City Hall and further on down Donegall Place to facilitate those who cannot get close to the President.
- 4. A project team will be established under the Chairmanship of Mr Morrison to work out the detailed management of the event. We will be represented at the team meetings.
- 5. It is expected that a crowd of 30,000-50,000 will be at the City Hall and environs that evening. Traffic will be at a standstill. The staging of the event will also require the removal of gates in front of the City Hall and the traffic lights at the top of Donegall Place.
- 6. The event will be a spectacular one, probably the biggest that Belfast has ever seen. All we need now is a Christmas Tree!

[Signed: MTHM]

M T H MAXWELL CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

RESTRICTED - VISITS

RC/17765

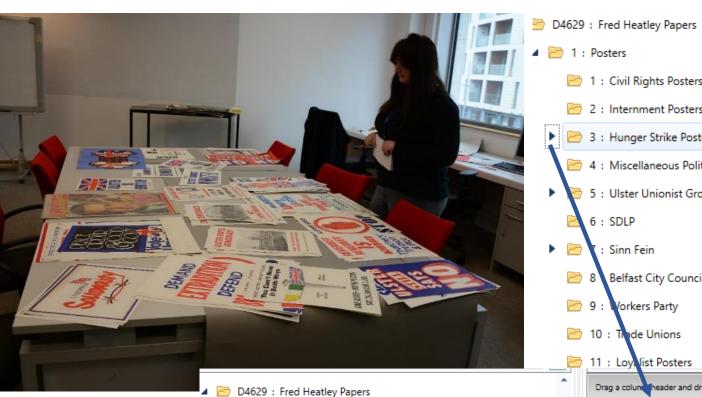




Oral History Archive/Stormont House Agreement (images courtesy of the Prisons Memory Archive D4616)



UTV Film and Tape Archive (D4677) partnership with NI Screen and ITV



▲ Posters

1 : Civil Rights Posters

2 : Internment Posters

3 : Hunger Strike Posters

1: 1980 Hunger Strike

2: 1981 Hunger Strike

Armagh prisons.

1 : Civil Rights Posters 2 : Internment Posters 3 : Hunger Strike Posters 4 : Miscellaneous Political Parties and Independent Ca 5: Ulster Unionist Groups Belfast City Council

Drag a column header and drop it here to group by that column

T Date T IDOS Medium T Reference T Location(s) T Description D4629/1/3/1/1 TQ/G-PC/44B Poster issued by the Republican Movement reading 1980 TQ/G-PC/44B D4629/1/3/1/2 Duplicate of D4629/1/3/1/1. 1980 Poster reading 'Don't let them die!'. The poster feat D4629/1/3/1/3 TQ/G-PC/44B 1980 D4629/1/3/1/4 TQ/G-PC/44B Poster reading 'Support the H-Block Hunger Striker 1980 Posters relating to both the 1980 and 1981 Hunger Strikes at the Maze/Long Kesh and Duplicate of D4629/1/3/1/4 1980 Poster featuring a photograph of Mary Doyle, one D4629/1/3/1/6 TQ/G-PC/44B 1980 D4629/1/3/1/7 TO/G-PC/44R Duplicate D4629/1/3/1/6 1980





- Partnerships and participation Making the Future https://www.makingthefuture.eu/project-info/women-in-the-archives and https://www.makingthefuture.eu/project-info/100-shared-stories
- Commemoration

Why we keep and use archives

- To protect the archival memory of our society
- To support accountability of government and public bodies
- To ensure compliance with legislation Access to information
- To provide evidence of the activities, rights, transactions of individuals, groups, communities

Email: access@communities-ni.gov.uk

Website: www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni

Facebook: www.facebook.com/publicrecordofficeni

Twitter: follow @PRONI_DFC to keep up to date with PRONI

If you want to be added to our mailing list and kept informed about PRONI news and events, please email proni@communities-ni.gov.uk







