

RELEASE IN PART
B6

CONFIDENTIAL

October 15, 2010

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: NI conference

Shaun has been excluded from the NI conference in its entirety. I've included the exchange of emails below. Exactly how Shaun has been shut out remains unclear.

Sid - my email exchange with Declan. Seems like Labour is firmly to be excluded!

On 15/10/10 18:22, "Declan Kelly" [redacted] wrote:

B6

> Shaun,
>
> Ran the traps on this. I'm told Sidney asked S if it would be ok for you to
> attend and she said she had no problem with it if there were no issues
> associated with same, but if there are then it can't happen.
>
> Unfortunately there are a number of protocol issues. Owen Paterson and
Peter
> Power (michael cannot come now) are only attending the first remarks by the
> Secretary and not participating in the conference. Owen is not attending
the
> dinner because he has to go back for the Cabinet mtg next day, so having
his
> Opposition counterpart there would obviously cause protocol issues as you
can
> appreciate. It also would raise questions in the Irish government as to why
> the opposition representative from their side wasn't invited either.
Finally,

> there just isn't enough time to rewind the tape on all of this with just
> one
> working day left between now and the event.
>
> As you know, it's nothing personal but that appears to be the situation. I
> hope you understand and if you want to chat further give me a call.
>
> Best,
>
> Declan

----- Forwarded Message

From: Shaun Woodward [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, 15 Oct 2010 20:50:24 +0100
To: Declan Kelly [REDACTED]
Conversation: <no subject>
Subject: Re: <no subject>

B6

Declan,

Thanks for your email. Of course it's not personal. But I do think it's wrong.

When we were in Government we believed we could only succeed if we treated Northern Ireland as a bi-partisan issue and I encouraged other Governments to adopt the same approach. That meant when President Bush was in the White House, I went out of my way always to see and brief Democrats - in Congress and in the Senate - whenever I came to the States. It also meant when we held the first economic conference led by Mayor Bloomberg in Belfast, the dinner we gave at Hillsborough was not restricted to just those in respective Governments.

In respect of how we handled the issue within the UK, that didn't mean I invited the Shadow Secretary of State to share every platform, but the Shadow was not excluded from being at major events. Indeed we made a point of not only saying we were bi-partisan, but acted accordingly.

Having brokered the Hillsborough Agreement and having discussed with your Secretary of State - at all stages - how the US could help through an Economic Conference, I am obviously somewhat disappointed not to have been invited to attend the Conference in any capacity.

That of course should never be confused with my deep respect and admiration for Secretary Clinton. Frankly without her help during her time in the White House, as a Senator, as a candidate and now as Secretary, we could never have made the progress we did. You will know that, at the time, I was always disappointed that her contribution to the peace process and political process was not recognized appropriately by the Conservative Party and their spokesmen when they were in Opposition.

The decision by Owen Patterson to decide not to be present at next week's Conference is a matter for him and the political demands he has chosen on which to determine his priorities. You would not expect me to comment on his decision.

However, I don't have to rehearse with you that successful long-term

economic investment in Northern Ireland will require building not only a stable peace process, but continuing to build cross-party and cross-community consensus. I am sorry we have not been invited to help.

The current coalition Government in Britain will not always be in power and it may not even last the course. It seems regrettable that in such a challenging global economic environment that those of us who helped build the peace are not even invited to continue helping.

Best,

Shaun