

RELEASE IN PART
B1,1.4(B),1.4(D),B6

From: sbwhoeop [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2010 11:10 AM
To: H
Subject: Re: H: Very, very latest on NI. Important info. Sid

B6

The report in the Irish Times (Dublin):

Order welcomes parades progress

Sat, Mar 06, 2010

The Orange Order today signalled its backing for parading proposals as part of a landmark deal to devolve law and order powers to Northern Ireland.

An overwhelming majority at the organisation's quarterly meeting welcomed progress made through the joint Sinn Féin/Democratic Unionist plan.

The endorsement of the Orange institution is seen as crucial to the ultimate success of proposed reforms on how contentious marches are managed.

After a meeting of 120 members of the order's Grand Lodge near Dungannon, Co Tyrone, Grand Master Robert Saulters said 95 per cent backed so far the parading aspect of the Hillsborough Agreement.

"We welcome the progress that has been made to bring legislation forward and publish a Bill and will make final comment when we see the Bill," he said.

Mr Saulters added: "We reaffirm our concerns on civil and religious liberties for all and regret the campaign to deprive people of the right to freedom of assembly."

The order's central committee, which met on Monday, recommended rank and file give its tacit support for the proposed framework to resolve contentious marches.

The proposal was passed without amendment.

The new framework for marches was devised by a six-man Sinn Féin/DUP working group that was set up as part of the wide-ranging accord hammered out by Stormont's two main parties at Hillsborough Castle, Co Down, last month.

The DUP's three representatives in the group briefed the order's central committee on Monday and it is understood the senior Orange representatives gave their proposals the thumbs up.

While details of the new management structures have not been made public, it is understood they are heavily influenced by a recent review of parades carried out by former Liberal Democrat leader Lord Ashdown.

Central to those was the axing of the current Parades Commission adjudication panel, with more emphasis placed on achieving localised resolutions.

The parades settlement is a key tenet of the Hillsborough Agreement, which has been credited with staving off the threatened collapse of the power-sharing government.

The deal sets out a series of inter-connected processes that will see justice powers devolved from London to Belfast in April and revised parading legislation placed on the statute by the end of the year.

The Grand Lodge meeting comes ahead of next week's crucial vote in the Assembly on the proposed timetable for law and order transfer.

PA

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-----Original Message-----

From: H <HDR22@clintonemail.com>

To: 'sbwhoeop' [redacted]

Cc: 'sullivanjj@state.gov' <sullivanjj@state.gov>

Sent: Sat, Mar 6, 2010 10:42 am

Subject: Re: H: Very, very latest on NI. Important info. Sid

Empey just told me the Orange Order did NOT vote for it but took a wait and see

attitude. Can you confirm what happened?

----- Original Message -----

From: sbwhoeop

B6

To: H

Sent: Sat Mar 06 10:22:33 2010

Subject: H: Very, very latest on NI. Important info. Sid

CONFIDENTIAL

March 6,

2010

For: Hillary

From: Sid

Re: NI latest

1. Shaun got former President George W. Bush to call Cameron yesterday through Paula Dobriansky, the former special envoy. The report back: Bush delivered the message, he told Cameron he considered it important for Cameron to get the UUP to complete the peace conference. Cameron said he was in favor.

2. This morning the Orange Order that organizes Protestant parades voted to recommend acceptance of the recent Hillsborough Castle agreement on future parades by an overwhelming margin, 100-5. Rather than standing outside the parading commission, this vote is a sign of confidence by Unionism in the new agreement.

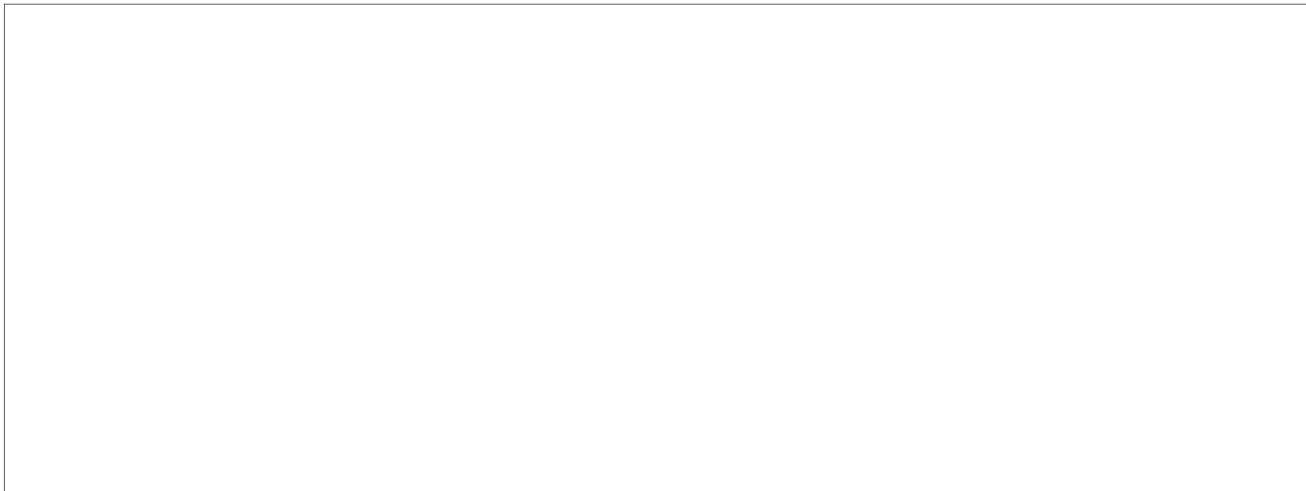
3. All evidence is that the UUP is trying to make Peter Robinson's life impossible. On Thursday, March 4, Empey finally produced a document laying out the UUP position. Among its demands was one for reorganization of the executive, conceived to undermine the process. Robinson and McGuinness, in fact, have already asked Empey to head a commission to make recommendations on making the executive work better. Robinson has told Shaun he is prepared to help Empey on the education issue, but not if he is unwilling to help on the peace process. Empey is also making a demand about who can be the justice minister that Shaun characterizes as "insane." The DUP and Sinn Fein have already created a process not to nominate someone from their respective parties to be justice minister to avoid putting in the post whose past is incendiary from Sinn Fein. Empey's demand to return to the old process is intended as merely a wrecking device.

4. Shaun is having done a poll of NI public opinion that, if it comes out well, will be released to the press by Monday. Robinson has shared his private polling with Shaun that shows more than 86 percent of the NI public support the agreement.

5. It is unclear what is going on with Cameron. Is he actually pushing for the agreement or not? If he is, does he have any influence? Either Cameron is purposefully not being strong with Empey or he is being spurned. making calls. If he is not really pressuring Empey, it would be out of a desperate and vain attempt to grab a parliamentary seat in the case of a hung parliament—a seat that is out of his grasp—the Sylvia Hermon seat.

6. Robinson has previously declared he would resign if the UUP didn't endorse the agreement. But Shaun says that he's getting signs that Robinson may be moving away from that position. There is a prospect that Empey's failure to endorse might not produce meltdown. If so, that would toll the end of the UUP.

Having tried to wreck the agreement, they would be left stranded. If Robinson stood firm then, didn't resign, triggering new elections, he might well achieve the isolation of the UUP.



1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1