

NOTE OF A MEETING BETWEEN MR ANDY TYRIE AND MR ALLAN AT LANESIDE
AT 18.30 HRS ON FRIDAY 21 MARCH

1. Mr Tyrie came to Laneside for a private chat. He was accompanied by Mr James Creighton, his travelling companion. Mr Tyrie made the following points.

a. Personal security

He was very concerned about his own safety. He hoped that the Northern Ireland Office could help him (or as I suggested in preference Mr Creighton) to get a firearms certificate. If not frankly he might have to make provision outside the law. I said I would prefer not to know of this latter idea.

b. Constitutional Convention

I indicated that an early announcement on the elections for the Conventions was likely. In this connection, I emphasised once again the need for the UDA to make their views known whether it be through elected representatives or by other means. Mr Tyrie was despondent about the possibility of the UUUC providing any real vehicle for the UDA's views to be made known. He believed that the real problem was to have them properly articulated. This required a research assistant and they were extremely keen to employ Mr David Burnside even though the VUI had the first option on his services. They would probably have to pay as much as £3½ thousand per annum and they had not got that sort of money. Could not the British Government help in some way?

c. Young Offenders

Mr Tyrie was agreeable to seeing officials at the Northern Ireland Office once again but he questioned how useful such visits were unless he had access to his own people in H M Prison The Maze. He foresaw great difficulty about the young offenders because although he had progressive views he was hearing from The Maze that a number of special category were digging their heels in; they did not want to be divided up from their colleagues. There would be an important selling job and any question of young offenders being segregated in cellular accommodation could raise great difficulties. The Loyalists were on the whole much more compliant than the Republicans but they would fight very hard to retain special category except for the periods of work. So far as this was concerned the Northern Ireland Office might not be aware that a number of prisoners were making a good deal of money by private handicraft. Indeed, he had heard of one man who was making £40 per week by making leather wallets. In connection with all this I attach a note which has been smuggled out of The Maze. THIS SHOULD NOT BE DISTRIBUTED FURTHER SINCE WE HAVE HAD STRICTURES FROM MR PARKES ABOUT INFORMATION OBTAINED BY LANESIDE FROM H M PRISONS.

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