



Department for

Communities

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Release of 1996 files at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland



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Using the documents

When using the documents held at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), please ensure that you acknowledge PRONI's custody of the original files and give the full PRONI document reference number.

Please note that in the 1996 file list; any file reference bearing 'A' at the end denotes the open part of a file which has been partially closed.

For example, the file *CENT/1/24/14A* refers to the open part of a file, whereas *CENT/1/24/14* refers to the part of that file withheld under certain exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

PRONI ON CAIN

PRONI on CAIN (Conflict Archive on the Internet) is a joint project between the Ulster University and PRONI which has resulted in digitised images of key documents from previous PRONI file releases being made freely available to view online for researchers and students. PRONI on CAIN includes over 2,600 public records comprising 9,700 pages of content on the troubles and political developments from 1968-1992. For further details of the documents available, please visit

<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/proni/index.html>



Introduction

The files are being released under the 30/20 Year Rule.

The annual release of selected official files continues against a background of greater public access through the Freedom of Information Act balanced against the need to protect personal information. The FOI Act (2000) created a new access to information regime and all records were reviewed in accordance with the Act, and the Data Protection legislation.

Annually since 1976, official records held by PRONI which were 30 years old have been reviewed with a view to making them publicly available (“the 30 year rule”). In September 2011, the Assembly accepted a Legislative Consent Motion to reduce the time limit for release from 30 years to 20 years (“the 20 year Rule”). This is underpinned by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the amendments made to it by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

The 20 Year Rule is being phased in over 10 years, with two years’ worth of records being reviewed and released each year. This year, the records of NI Departments and the NIO with terminal dates of 1995 were brought forward for release during August 2019 and the records of 1996 are being brought forward for release during December 2019.

This process involves the referral of the files to the Responsible Authority for sensitivity review. This entails a page by page examination to ensure that a record contains nothing sensitive as defined by the FOI Act, and Data Protection legislation.

Records Released

577 files being deemed as suitable for release as “fully open”. A further **232** files are open but subject to blanking out of some content. **49** files remain closed in full.

The main file series being released includes Central Secretariat.

Some of the significant issues covered by the 1996 release include:

- Northern Ireland Forum (NIF) Talks
- Talks and political developments between the Northern Ireland parties and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
- Exploratory dialogue
- Ceasefires
- BSE Crisis
- Cross border economic cooperation
- Security legislation (including ministerial consideration of Emergency Provisions and Special Category)
- Anglo Irish Intergovernmental Conference
- Secretary of State's briefings on various NI issues
- Extradition
- Prison Operations
- Police Matters
- Parades
- Child abuse
- Industrial development
- Tourism
- Community relations
- Paramilitary activity
- Rural development
- Civil emergencies
- Fair employment
- Proposed motorways and Infrastructure

Records may be closed either fully or in part only. Blanking out involves the removal of a limited number of papers from the file that have been deemed as exempt from the right to know under FOI. To facilitate the release of as much information as possible, redaction can be used to blank out sensitive data within individual documents that would otherwise prevent release. All information which is withheld in the manner outlined above, however, must be retained in accordance with the exemptions contained within the FOI Act. In the majority of cases, the reason for extended closure was the application of section 40 – the *personal information* exemption – of the FOI Act. This means that personal information is exempt from the right to know if it would breach Data Protection legislation.

The catalogue of files for 1996 will be publicly available online on the PRONI website www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni from Monday 30th December and the files will also be available to view at PRONI from Monday 30th December.

These files are available to the media in advance of their release to the public on the strict understanding that **there is an embargo on publication or broadcast until 00.01am on Monday 30th December.**



1996 Highlighted Files

Central Secretariat

CENT/1/20/34A 1991 – 1996 CCRU Complaints against Security Forces Committee

Restricted document dated 9 August 1996 of the minutes of the August 1996 committee; “Drumcree was, quite simply, a disaster for both communities and their relationships with the police. They were

now as far apart as ever. There was a total loss of confidence in the RUC and there was criticism of its senior officers. Father Dooley, the Parish Priest in Drumcree, had said that relations between the RUC and local Nationalists were at an all time low. There was a perception that the RUC had not been impartial in their dealings at Drumcree and there were some allegations of collusion in that a Catholic street had been attacked by a loyalist mob immediately after 4 landrovers had been taken away to perform other duties on 11 July. (The SDC who had met with Fr Dooley afterwards, had admitted that the redeployment had been a mistake.) There was also a hardening of attitudes towards the decommissioning question with the Sinn Fein position becoming more favorable.”

CENT/1/23/2 1994 – 1996 Ceasefire

This file dates largely to 1994, and contingency planning in the wake of ceasefires by PIRA and loyalists. A confidential policy paper dated November 1994 prepared

by David Fell, Head of Civil Service, raises the need for both NIO and NI Departments to examine and adjust current and future programmes and plans, in the event of the ceasefires becoming permanent. “On the working assumption that the cessation of

violence is permanent, its impact can begin to be felt almost immediately in PE [Public Expenditure] terms. Specific counter-terrorist measures can be reduced, the security presence on the streets can be scaled down and compensation liabilities diminished.”

CENT/1/23/16A 1994 – 1995 Police Matters Vol 8

Confidential memo from C Collins of the Police Division, NIO, to P/S Sir John Wheeler, NIO Minister, dated 13 January 1995; “Mr Maginnis has tabled seven priority written PQs, in his crusade against the Chief Constable...”

Mr Maginnis and others in the UUP, especially Mr Trimble, have for some time been making clear their disquiet about the Chief Constable. But this now shows signs of building up into something of a crescendo; it is not clear why this should be so now. However, his irritation must somehow be assuaged and continued, because of its potentially far-reaching adverse consequences....The Chief Constable is perhaps not the easiest personality; but I wonder to what extent his efforts to modernise the RUC, and to move it forward along the lines of which we would [wholly] approve, may be responsible for some of the reaction, from particular quarters within his force?... So, The Government will need to support him – both because he is the only Chief Constable the RUC have got, and this kind of destructive activity will be bad both for the Force and more widely; and because he is a comparatively modernising influence.”

CENT/1/23/18A 1994 – 1996 British Embassy Dublin, Notification of Events Relations with Irish Government and British Embassy in Dublin. Commentary on Irish opinions and politicians. Memo dated 23 October 1996 from the British Embassy, Dublin, discusses recent

debates on Ireland joining the EU Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). One of the participants argued “you could make a strong argument for a currency area with the UK” rather than the idea of Ireland joining a monetary union with Germany and France.

1 Nov 1996 The British Labour Party have approached the Irish Government regarding preparations for EMU. "Senior figures in the British Labour Party appeared confident they would win a referendum on EMU, given a month to turn around public opinion."

A memo of a discussion between British Ambassador to Dublin, Veronica Sutherland and Dr Alderdice on 23 April 1996, Sutherland states "Alderdice told me [Sutherland] that he thought Adams had genuinely put violence behind him and wanted a settlement. He did not think this applied to Martin McGuinness whom he regarded as an evil man. Rita O'Hare had also put her past behind her, and had apologized to him in tears over Sinn Fein's failure to sign up to consent in the Dublin Form. Alderdice also believed that many of the Unionists, and particularly John D Taylor, wanted compromise and a settlement soon. In spite of all the problems, Alderdice thought a deal was possible in the coming months."

Another memo from Simon Buckle of the British Embassy in Dublin to D Lamont in the FCO dated 20 December 1995 draws attention to the recent remarks of Irish Finance Minister in the Dail. "While being pressed by the Fianna Fail spokesman about EMU and the Governor of the Central Bank's estimate that 45,000 people were employed in manufacturing sectors highly dependent on the UK, Quinn said that "If on the other hand, the British Government under the mismanagement of the Tories – we have seen some spectacular mismanagement over the last number of years – so abuse the fundamentals of their economy that the value of Sterling depreciates...."

CENT/1/23/95A 1994

Briefing Material – LXD [Loyalist Exploratory Dialogue

Note from Jonathan Stephens dated 15 December 1994 on the opening meeting of the loyalist exploratory dialogue with PUP and UDP; "Mr Ervine, PUP criticized the Government for thinking this

dialogue was about one issue only – arms. They were disappointed at the continual references in the Government's statement to the lack of electoral mandate – what

mandate did the Downing Street Declaration have from the people of Northern Ireland? It had only been kept alive by the loyalists. The Government was a 'bit player' when it came to arms: it was really an issue between the loyalists and republicans. It could not be resolved until more trust was built. For their part, loyalists would want to retain arms so long as there was the possibility of a republican offensive. They noted there had been no declaration of cessation of violence by INLA" File contains the opening statements from the Government and both PUP and UDP to the bi-lateral talks process.

CENT/1/24/4 1995 Police Matters Vol 10

Contains note of a policing dinner, 1 May 1995 which Sir John Wheeler attended, supported by David Sterling, commenting on the discussion and points raised by a 'Catholic/'soft nationalist' guest

list; paper dated 17 May 1995 in relation to the future adjustment and reform of policing in Northern Ireland, with endorsement from the Secretary of State and John Chlicott.

CENT/1/24/5 1995 Police Matters Vol 11

Papers relate primarily to discussion on police structure reforms and the appointment of Dr Maurice Hayes as an independent reviewer to the police complaints system. A confidential policy document

dated 28 November 1995 from Police Division to Mr Beeton of the Planning Unit in IPL on the issue of legally held firearms rebukes an allegation made by Sinn Fein; "Pretending, to a child frightened by a nightmare of a wolf under the bed, that the wolf is in fact there, doesn't help to calm it. Showing the child the empty space under the bed – and later taking it to the zoo to see real wolves – does, in my experience. (Although that won't prevent the next nightmare, [centering] perhaps on killer goldfish)."

CENT/1/24/14A 1995 – 1996 CCRU Policy towards Public Marches

Meeting with SDLP delegation on the subject of the Apprentice Boys Parade, 19 December 1995; “Councillor Devine explained that marches have particular resonance in Derry and it was not easy

to encourage a spirit of reconciliation with Loyalists ‘stomping around the walls in a triumphalist fashion causing fear.’ The councillor believed that the people of Derry had demonstrated ‘tolerance’ of the Orange and Black marches especially bearing in mind that the City side was 95% nationalist. The problem as he saw it, was that the marchers insisted on full routes and were not prepared to show restraint in order to come to a fair settlement and not march at the section of the walls which overlook the Bogside. The SDLP view was that the RUC has backed down under a threat from the Apprentice Boys that the city would be brought to a stand-still if they were not allowed to march the entire length of the walls. The SDLP wanted respect for the rule of law but the RUC decision, allowing bullying to prevail, made it difficult for them to have respect for the rule of law. Councillor Devine hoped that the events of August would not be repeated.” Letter dated 2 April 1996, from PS Sir John Wheeler to Mr Steele (NIO) on a meeting with Dr Ian Paisley; “Dr Ian Paisley then, without prompting moved to the subject of parades. He complained about the prejudice within the RUC, examples of this was that the Chief Constable had met residents of the Garvaghy Road but not the Orangemen and that the Belfast Committee for the Apprentice Boys had been called in by a Junior RUC officer, shown a propaganda video which had been made by the Lower Ormeau concerned citizens and told that because of the damage which had been done to the RUC last year that they would never be allowed to march on the Ormeau Road again.”

CENT/1/25/1 1996 All Party Negotiations 10 June 1996 – Key Background Texts

A bound folder bringing together key documents from the Anglo-Irish agreement 1985 to Northern Ireland and Ground rules for substantive All Party negotiations, dated 16 April 1996.

CENT/1/25/6 1996 Central Community Relations Unit (CCRU) Policy Towards Public Marches Pt. 2.

A memo dated 20 May 1996 reflects on Sir John Wheeler's meeting with David Trimble MP in the run up to the upcoming marching season. It concludes

"The meeting represented very real movement from Mr Trimble who undertook to work actively to sell a compromise to local Orangemen with a view to taking the moral high ground. He also appeared to be prepared to be publically associated with such a compromise. It is probably too early to be optimistic... Of course such a successful resolution would only apply to Drumcree, but it is potentially the greatest flash-point and Mr Trimble's attitude is in marked contrast to that of last year."

CENT/1/25/7 1996 FAU Forum Location

Discusses the setting of up of a NI Forum, practicalities around the siting of such a forum and other administrative details. A restricted letter dated 10 May 1996, from Martin Howard (PS to the

Secretary of State) discusses the [SoS] meeting with Dr Mowlam on 9 May 1996. "Dr Mowlam was interested to hear that the Unionist attitude to George Mitchell might be changing. She agreed with the Secretary of State that the US administration was looking for a success.... Dr Mowlam then asked about the prospects for a new ceasefire. The Secretary of State said that we genuinely were uncertain about this, his best guess was that there was a 50/50 chance of a new ceasefire before talks started."

CENT/1/25/8 1996 Northern Ireland Forum (NIF) Meetings with Politicians and Political Parties

The file includes a confidential letter from John Holmes, 10 Downing Street to Martin Howard, NIO, dated 3 June 1976, it reports on a meeting between

Prime Minister, John Major and David Trimble, discussing the recent Northern Ireland elections, the poor results of the UUP, 'The result in North Belfast was disastrous. There was a danger that Gerry Kelly could be the next MP there'; discussions about the ceasefire and possible options for the talks, decommissioning, 'Donaldson commented that McCartney wanted to take over from Paisley when the old man disappeared'. Confidential letter from Holmes to Howard, dated 5 June 1996 about a meeting between Dr Paisley, Peter Robinson and the Prime Minister, includes discussion of the Talks Chair, George Mitchell, plans for the talks, the success of Sinn Fein, etc; and correspondence about Labour Party representation at the forthcoming elections to the Forum.

CENT/1/25/11 1996 Northern Ireland Forum (NIF) – Meetings and Various Issues Involving SDLP

The file contains resignation letters from SDLP Forum members protesting at the political process; and a note of a discussion with Joe Byrne, SDLP Vice-Chairman, dated 2 September 1996, focussing

on events surrounding Drumcree and a potential election pact with Sinn Fein.

CENT/1/25/12 1996 Northern Ireland Forum (NIF) – Meetings and Various Issues Involving UDP

A small file which includes a note for the record regarding bilateral talks with the UDP on 9 October 1996. "Mr. McMichael [leader of the UDP delegation] confirmed decommissioning debate as

soon as possible and for early movement without holding back on Sinn Fein. That they needed to be able to demonstrate to their constituents that there was a tangible benefit to them remaining within the negotiating process, preferably at least at another level up to the present one. He made no bones about wishing to get in and out of the decommissioning debate as soon as possible and for early movement without holding back on Sinn Fein."

CENT/1/25/13 1996

Northern Ireland Forum (NIF) – Talks Papers

The file opens with a confidential note from Quentin Thomas dated 30 December 1996 noting a telephone call from Roy Beggs MP. “You sought my advice on the idea, promoted by Mr Frank Costello,

that a new IRA ceasefire might be engineered on the basis that HMG would guarantee Sinn Fein early entry to the talks process on equal terms if the integrity of the ceasefire was underwritten by the Irish Government, backed by the US Government. It is not clear that this idea could achieve the support of Sinn Fein and the IRA, the Irish Government or the US government. The idea does not appear to have been put to us directly by any of these key players.” Papers relating to the talks chaired by Senator Mitchell; Note for the record dated 17 December 1996 “Throughout the day, the dominant note was of UUP bugles sounding the retreat from the apparently promising position on decommissioning developed in trilaterals with the SDLP and Alliance last week....McCartney, clearly aware of the divisions within the UUP camp, berated Trimble’s toops[sic] for marginalizing other pro-Union parties in their pursuit of an agreement with the SDLP.” Discussions on decommissioning during the talks between the British and Irish side on 19 November 1996, “Mr O’hUiginn said that we were beginning to ‘run out of road’ on decommissioning. Despite much ingenuity being deployed, it now seemed clear that the UUP’s purpose was not to achieve satisfactory arrangements on decommissioning, but to keep Sinn Fein out. The SDLP shared this judgement. There was a rough choice: a ceasefire and a talks process, or neither.”

CENT/1/25/22 1990 – 1991

Ministers Meetings / Speeches / Briefs – Miscellaneous

Contains note of a meeting between a delegation of Presbyterian Ministers with Sir John Wheeler, NIO Minister about the isolation of the Unionist

community in Co. Tyrone, and the targeting of members of their congregations who were in the security services.

CENT/1/25/26 1992 – 1996 Catching the Tide – Working Group

File discusses the potential of establishing a Northern Ireland Events Company to take forward major events and attract international sporting championships to Northern Ireland. The papers

discuss the financial implications and risks of trying to attract major events and sponsorship during the early days of the ceasefires. A memo dated 15 February 1996 by RB Spence discusses the implications of the end of the PIRA ceasefire and the strategy for attracting events in the coming years, and the upcoming events likely to be impacted upon as a result.

CENT/1/25/30A 1993 – 1996 Broadcasting Restrictions

The file contains confidential correspondence about the Prime Minister's request to examine how restrictions relating to Northern Ireland were operating. 'This is in response to concern about the

way that broadcasters have been using sophisticated lip-synching techniques to give a very realistic impression of Mr Gerry Adams' voice during the course of interviews with him', dated 9 November 1993.

CENT/1/25/33 1994 – 1996 Security Information Group Vol. 2

The file contains confidential minutes of the Security Information Group including a general review of recent terrorist activities, possible reinstatement of a PIRA ceasefire, the loyalist ceasefire, political

developments, etc. The minutes of the 3 April 1996 include a topic on use of the internet, '... Sinn Fein was using the internet to good advantage. Its ... presentation was good in content and style. *An Phoblacht* could be read on the internet before it was on sale at retail outlets.'

CENT/1/25/44A 1996

FAU – Political Papers

The file includes: confidential letter from John Holmes, Private Secretary, 10 Downing Street to Martin Howard, NIO, dated 13 May 1996, giving a brief read out of a meeting between the Taoiseach,

John Bruton and David Trimble, covering decommissioning, parades and the Anglo-Irish Agreement; letter from John Holmes, Private Secretary, 10 Downing Street to Martin Howard, Private Secretary, NIO, dated 13 May 1996 about the Prime Minister's meeting with David Trimble and Reg Empey, covering a range of topics, 'President Clinton clearly believed that his prospect of winning the elections would be greater if there was an IRA ceasefire and progress in the talks', 'Trimble said that he had written to President Clinton asking for assurances about Mitchell', '... It is surprising that we have not had an irate Paisley on the telephone demanding a meeting ... John Hume rang ... asking why Trimble had had two meetings ... when he had not been able to get one;'; letter from the Taoiseach, John Bruton to Prime Minister Major, dated 21 May 1996 about decommissioning; papers on the All-Party negotiations, a note of the first 30 hours dated 13 June 1996, appointment of a Chairman, 'Events then took an extraordinary turn. Very shortly after his meeting with the Secretary of State, Trimble asked to see Senator Mitchell and at 2.30 presented a compromise proposal, saying he would be prepared to accept Mitchell as Chairman ...'; 'In 20 months as a Private Secretary I have been privileged to be part of, or witness to a number of extraordinary events, but I think the last two days has topped them all...', Martin Howard, PS/Secretary of State.



Department of Agriculture

AG/34/2

1996

BSE General

Papers dated 18 June 1996 prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food [Whitehall], discuss the longer term consequences of BSE. "It goes without saying that, so far as beef and dairy farmers are concerned, the BSE crisis has changed their lives. An initial period of extreme worry and stress is bring followed by one of recovery but to a situation very different than before the crisis." "Some possible consequences going wider than the beef chain... The 3 main ones appear to be perceptions of British agriculture, of British goods in other countries and of the controls on methods of food production....It is hard to see how this reputation (of British Agriculture) can fail to be tarnished by the BSE crisis. BSE does not exist elsewhere on the scale it does in the UK and the cause is clearly methods of food production used...Questions are bound to be raised about other methods of food production used in UK agriculture."

AG/80/108

1996

Moy Park

File contains papers about the potential expansion of Moy Park operations in Northern Ireland and consideration of the potential for development funding by Department of Agriculture officials.



Department of Economic Development

DED/3/129A 1995 – 1996 Civil Unrest Tribunal Review 1995

Letter from NIO dated 4 August 1995; “You have asked for our opinion on the continuation of the loss of employment compensation scheme, against the background of the ceasefires. It is, I think, still too early to discontinue it. We all hope that terrorism is over for good: but at a time when the paramilitaries continue to target and train, and retain possession of their weapons, there remains a risk that that the campaign of violence could resume.” NP Perry, NIO.

DED/3/642 1995 – 1996 1995 MacBride Campaign – Current Position

The file reports on recent developments in the US MacBride campaign. A summary paper dated June 1996 illustrate the position on various MacBride legislation introduced in 1995 across federal, state and local Government. Will Haire to Baroness Denton, NIO Minister 13 May 1996 discusses the prospects for 1996; “The latest information from Washington would suggest that the veto of the authorisation Bill is unlikely to sour the Irish American “love affair” with President Clinton. Most republicans are aware of this and are therefore unlikely to argue in favour of a new republican enthusiasm for MacBride... it is thought likely that abortion, rather than MacBride, will be the main element in the Republican’s pitch for the Catholica vote in November. The INC has already attacked the President for his veto of a recent Bill banning “partial birth” abortions.

DED/3/658 1995 – 1996 Sinn Fein Strategy Document – Vision in Action

File contains note of a meeting between senior DED Officials with Mr Gerry Adams, Councillor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir and Mr McQuillan, 14 November 1995, focussing on key aspects of Sinn Fein’s economic strategy for West Belfast. “Cllr Ó Muilleoir also suggested that if Government responses to Sinn Fein papers were drafted in Irish there would be further potential for job opportunities within NICS ...”.

DED/3/925 **1995 – 1996** **Research: male Long-term Unemployment**

File contains details of research papers into the factors impacting on Male long-term unemployment, and looks to why it is greater in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain. Paper circa 5 April 1996, “Some communities have suggested that growth in part-time employment, and rising levels of female participation in the labour market, have occurred alongside a fall in demand for male, full time employment in more traditional manufacturing type employment. This has occurred in tandem with continuing growth in the service sectors of the economy and the ongoing drive for flexibility in the UK labour market. These forces have to some degree moved current work patterns away from the old-style UK pattern of large scale manufacturing employment in largely unskilled or semi-skilled occupations.”

DED/21/7/88 **1992 – 1996** **Belfast Telegraph**

File contains papers relating to potential grant funding by the Industrial Development Board to *Belfast Telegraph*. This includes a request for ‘internet’ funding, dated 18 June 1996.



Department of Environment

ENV/8/1/142 1993 – 1996 Smyth Extradition – Rebuttal of allegations of Bernadette McAliskey

File contains lines to take in response to the allegations made by Bernadette McAliskey that “certain areas and individuals are punished for the way in which they vote.” The deposition of David James Watkins, Under Secretary for the Department of Finance and Personnel and head of Central Secretariat of the NI Civil Service, dated 20th October 1993 is a rebuttal to Bernadette McAliskey previous testimony; “In the course of her evidence on 4 and 5 October 1993, Mrs Bernadette McAliskey made a number of statements in relation to local Government, housing, economic matters, which are inaccurate or misleading.”

ENV/32/2/21 1996 Global Warming and Sea Level Rise

File contains one letter from an official confirming ‘we have very little information under the topics you list. ... We are involved in a project ... this makes reference to Global Warming ...’, dated 25 March 1996.

ENV/34/4/7 1978 – 1980 M11 Black’s Road to Stewartstown Road: Planning Development Application: De Lorean Factory

Letter dated 2 August 1978 from J Scott, Department of Commerce, to T.A.N. Prescott of Roads Service (DOE); “The nature of this De Lorean project and the number of people involved will lead to a colossal increase in the traffic which I believe warrants an acceleration of the roads programme...The dramatic impact however, of the imminent development of a major industry occupying approximately 60 acres and eventually providing employment for up to 200 people requires a complementary response from the Roads Service in order to fulfil Government Policy.”

ENV/34/4/10 1981 – 1983 Foyle Bridge – Labour Relations

File contains papers relating to a series of industrial disputes relating to the construction of the Foyle bridge. Letter from the contractor to Roads Service dated 22 June 1983; “The workforce for the above contract went on strike on Monday 13th June 1983. The initial reason for calling the strike was that local Londonderry operatives were paid off whereas operatives from outside the immediate area continued to be employed on the contract. Since going on strike the workforce have made a number of unreasonable demands which would involve us in considerable additional expense. Whilst in the past we have negotiated cash incentives with the operatives to ensure important operations continued on the job, it is not our proposal to do so on this occasion. Indeed in the past we have gone to great effort and incurred considerable costs in our endeavours to keep the job to programme, We must take a stand on this stoppage or the contract will be fraught with difficulty from now until completion. We are not therefore prepared to meet the demands and the strike continues.”

ENV/37/42 1994 – 1995 50th Anniversary of World War 2

File contains minutes of the Interdepartmental Committee Planning Northern Ireland commemorations to make the 50th Anniversary of World War 2, it includes themes for commemoration, potential participants, role of the Secretary of State and local political parties, liaison with district councils; letter dated March 1995 from Brigadier D. Strudley HQNI, setting out programme to mark VJ Day.

ENV/49/2 1995 – 1996 PRONI Parliament Buildings Fire and Consequences

File contains a letter from Leo O'Reilly, Prison Service to Nigel Hamilton, Department of Environment, dated 5 January 1995, about the possibility of developing the Crumlin Road Gaol and Courthouse for public records purposes.



Department of Finance and Personnel

DFP/18/2/4/3 1995 – 1996 Central Secretariat: - Government Assistance to Community Groups - Problem of Paramilitary Connections.

Revision of guidance on Government contacts with Sinn Fein in light of the end of the IRA ceasefire on 9 February 1996. Correspondence between NIO and the Probation Board (PBNI) over the allocation of funds to a loyalist prisoner group.

DFP/19/172A 1993 – 1996 Supply - N.I.O. - Terrorist Finance Unit Vol. 2

Draft memo to Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) from Central Secretariat c. April 1994. "The Secretary of State is concerned to ensure that where there is information that a firm in receipt of Government grant/contract is paying protection money, and is likely to go on doing so, that Government should withhold further assistance [or] contracts from that firm....organisations while innocent themselves of making any protection payments, will not be permitted grant-aid where the project involves the employment of a sub-contractor who falls within this policy." Confidential note dated 12 November 1993; "Prior to the 1993 Finance Act, a businessperson could identify a payment in business accounts as relating to protection money paid to terrorist, and the Revenue could have no legal grounds for refusing to grant tax relief. On that basis, a belief had developed that the Government condoned the payment of protection money in Northern Ireland as normal and acceptable business practice."

DFP/19/177 1981 – 1985 DeLorean : Various Papers pertaining to DeLorean held by R.A.E.D.

File contains briefing for a debate on 1 May 1985 which give a background to the establishment and eventual collapse of the DeLorean factory in West

Annual Release of 1996 Official Files

Belfast. The papers discuss the Government's planned lines to take against criticisms of their actions. "The Administration responsible for the initial decision to finance this investment decided as a matter of policy that the potential economic and social benefits justified the risks, in particular it was a condition of assisting that the project be located in West Belfast, an area of acute economic and social deprivation."



Department of Health and Social Services

HSS/11/70/26A 1991 – 1996

Perinatal Ultrasound Screenings

File contains papers relating to a pilot study undertaken at Royal Victoria Hospital on ultrasound screening for congenital abnormalities of new-borns.

Letter dated 10 February 1993 from Dr J.C. Dornan to Dr E. McWhirter reports on the pilot process; “At this moment in time 350 new-born infants have been screened. Six significant cardiac lesions have been detected and clinical follow-up is ongoing. During this same time interval all those not screened in the Pilot Study, 8 babies have been readmitted...with various degrees of cardiac distress. These babies were born in Royal Maternity and normal clinical examination did not determine any abnormalities.”



Northern Ireland Office

NIO/14/23A

Extradition

Papers relate to the US Extradition trials of the Maze escapers, Smyth, Kirby, Brennan and Artt. The bulk of the papers relate to statistical evidence on the troubles, and the preparation of affidavits and NIO testimony for the hearings. A question and answer brief for John Chilcott touches on a wide range of topics including; Conflict in NI, UK security policy in NI, Emergency legislation, Shoot to kill policy, and Collusion and The Stevens Enquiry. A draft submission [undated] details a number of areas which witnesses from NIO, RUC and the Army are not authorized to testify on to the court. Submission discusses; intelligence techniques, the use of informers, Special Units of the security forces, and specific operations of special units. "The Government is most anxious that the court should not conclude that the concerns expressed in this submission are fanciful or over-stated. It Can only set out for the court's consideration the facts about the security situation in Northern Ireland in 1993 rather than in several years hence, when Mr Smyth – if he is returned to Northern Ireland as a result of these proceedings – will eventually be released from prison."

