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PAB/1957/DP

PS/Secretary of State (L&B) -m cc: PS/Mr Scott (L&B) -m
PS/Dr Mawhinney (L&B) -m
PS/PUS (L&B) -m
PS/Mr Bloomfield
Mr Stephens
Mr Brennan -m
Mr Chesterton -m
Mr Elliott
Mr Spence
Mr Gilliland
Mr Bell -m
Mr G Hewitt
Miss Elliott -m
Mr S Hewitt
Mr Mackay, c/o Private -m
Office NIO (L)
Mr Barry, DOE
Mr Hamilton, DOE

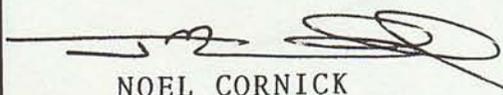
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UUP CAMPAIGN IN DISTRICT COUNCILS

I attach a copy of the letter from Glengall Street of 7 July setting out the latest UUP tactics for pursuing their campaign of opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The letter was handed to me by a UUP Councillor, who added the gloss that members of both Unionist parties, and the Lord Mayor of Belfast in particular, were determined to see the Government forced into the position of having to bring in Commissioners during the autumn. He had no idea what proposals Mr Trimble might have in mind for "bringing the work of local government to a standstill".

The reference to "all UU Councillors, whether or not currently in receipt of their Party Whip" is clearly a reference to John Carson and his four colleagues in Belfast who had the whip removed after they voted against a continuation of the adjournment campaign on 6 May.

Millar's letter once again refers to the commitment given to the electorate on 23 January to withdraw the consent of the Unionist community. We are not aware that at any stage during the by-election campaign was a sustained campaign of boycotting Westminster, exploiting the Assembly and compelling its dissolution and failing to carry out local government responsibilities actually suggested to the voters.


NOEL CORNICK
Political Affairs Division

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11 July 1986

Leader of the Party:
JAMES H. MOLYNEAUX, J.P., M.P.

Patrons:
EILEEN LADY BROOKEBOROUGH, J.P.
COLONEL JAMES G. CUNNINGHAM,
O.B.E., D.L.

President:
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UNIONIST HEADQUARTERS
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BT12 5AE

7 July 1986

TO ALL ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCILLORS

Dear Councillor

The Executive Committee of the Party reconvened on Friday last to consider the ongoing local government protest against the Anglo-Irish Agreement and approved the following resolution -

"That the policy of Council adjournments be continued until and unless Court action would place Councillors in contempt, at which point the policy should change to one of abstention, and that Councillors be asked to prepare actions to be taken in the autumn, most probably in the run-up to the first anniversary of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the effect of which would be to bring the work of local government to a standstill".

Only 5 votes were recorded against this proposal which originated with the Party Policy Committee and carried the unanimous endorsement of the Executive of the Unionist Councillors' Association.

The obvious purpose and effect of this proposal is to provide Councillors with an alternative course should Court action require it. However, a prolonged policy of abstention is not envisaged nor considered desirable, and Mr David Trimble has been asked to make recommendations to the Joint Working Party in respect of our declared objective "to bring the work of local government to a standstill". You may be assured that any views advanced by Mr Trimble will be fully discussed with the Unionist Councillors' Association.

This proposal - which is binding on all Ulster Unionist Councillors, whether or not currently in receipt of their Party Whip - follows the pledge given by Mr Molyneaux, in agreement with Dr Paisley, that Councillors would not be expected to serve as "court fodder" and removes the risk of disqualification and financial penalties. At the same time, it is an earnest of the determination of the Executive Committee to fulfil the commitment given to the electorate on 23rd January to withdraw the consent of the Unionist community. Insofar as both the British and Irish Governments have shown a willingness to play for time, the resolution is notice of our resolve to escalate our campaign of opposition to the Agreement, and the whole Party is grateful for your continued support thereto.

Yours sincerely

FRANK MILLAR
Secretary