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Brief Note of Conversation with Mr Quintin Hogg, M.P.

on 5/9/69

1. Mr Hogg had telephoned the Ambassador to suggest that he (Hogg) call for an informal discussion about the situation. The Ambassador responded by inviting him to lunch. Mr Rush was present also at the lunch.
2. Mr Hogg's main points were
 - (a) Irish Ministers should be maintaining contact at the present stage with British Ministers, notwithstanding the difficulties posed by the undue publicity which was attached to such encounters, especially by T.V. reporters etc.;
 - (b) his own solution (Hogg's) would consist largely of the setting up of a Human Rights Commission with tripartite membership of distinguished judges. Everyone with civil-rights grievances could apply direct to this Commission for redress. Since the Commission would be established by the agreement of all three Governments, London, Dublin and Belfast, and be manned by a distinguished judge of each of these three administrations, its decisions should carry conviction with everyone concerned;
3. Later in the conversation, after some reference to the possibility of a federal solution of some kind, Mr Hogg interjected that such a solution might be very promising, but that he assumed there would be British participation in it.

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Other points mentioned by Mr Hogg were

- (i) that the Conservatives (who, he said, would be in power in 15 months' time) hoped to be able to deal more successfully with Belfast;
- (ii) in particular, that the Tories understood the Unionists much better, and had a high regard for Chichester Clark, with whom they were sure they could work closely and fruitfully;
- (iii) in general, he indicated that the Conservatives, up to this point, supported the action taken by the Labour Government;
- (iv) he was concerned about the immediate outlook, but hoped there will be a gradual improvement;
- (v) he thought that the Rev. Mr Paisley, in particular, was a menace, and deplored the undue influence of small minorities of extremists on both sides. He implied that the majority of Unionists could be relied upon, to be sensible and moderate and to push ahead with reforms.

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