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~~Taoiseach~~

Following the visit of the S.D.L.P. representatives today you may wish to consider whether, how and when pressure might be brought to bear on the British Government and the British Labour Party with a view to

1. advancing the date of the General Election for the new Assembly in Northern Ireland and
2. promoting desirable amendments in the new Northern Ireland Bill which is to come before the House of Commons in Westminster.

Department of Foreign Affairs could be asked to process item 1 above immediately and as regards item 2 I would suggest that the Inter-Departmental Unit on the North might be asked for an early report on the new Bill.

Independently of this submission I have asked Department of Foreign Affairs to arrange to have copies of the Bill transmitted from London as soon as it is circulated in the House of Commons.

Apart from possible amendments which the I.D.U. itself might suggest as desirable, special consideration could be given by the I.D.U. to the desirability or possibility of promoting specific amendments designed

- (a) to clarify the power-sharing provisions,
- (b) to extend them if possible to the subordinate State Boards - Health, Social Welfare, Housing etc.
- (c) to provide for more openings for Catholics/Nationalists in the higher Civil Service of the N.I. Departments of State - on the lines, perhaps, of the E.E.C. Commission operation,

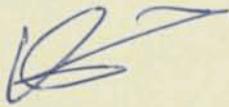
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- (d) to promote the Irish dimension in relation to flags and emblems and to the eligibility of "Republican" or "Sinn Fein" organisations for electoral purposes,
- (e) to effect acceptable policing of the North and
- (f) to improve the anti-discrimination provisions.

Such consideration would cover the main areas of dissatisfaction mentioned by the S.D.L.P. representatives.



22 Márta 1973

No further action needed in view of time table announced re election to new Assembly 11/4