

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND



P.1

15 September 1982

The Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs

Attention: Margaret Hennessy, Anglo Irish Section  
cc Mr. J. Sharkey, Embassy, Washington

Subject: Visit of Lord Gowrie, Minister of State N.I. to Boston

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Lord Gowrie paid a short visit to Boston early this week. He did not, as far as I know, make any media appearances although he was interviewed on tape by Chris Lydon of WGBH TV (Public Broadcasting). The interview has not yet been broadcast.

I understand he was also interviewed by Pdraig O'Malley and that the interview will be reflected in Mr. O'Malley's forthcoming book.

My husband and I were invited to meet the Minister of State at a dinner hosted by the British Consul General, Philip McKearney. Among the other dinner guests (suggested, I understand by Lord Gowrie) were George V. Higgins, the author, and Michael Curtis, an Editor of the Atlantic Monthly. Lord Gowrie has in the past held faculty positions at Harvard and other universities in the departments of English and American literature.

Lord Gowrie and I had a discussion about the Northern Ireland situation. He claims that unless the Assembly is a success pressure in the Conservative party for integration will be irresistible and he describes this as a calamitous alternative. When I questioned him about the lack of consultation with the Irish Government he replied in rather delphic terms that it depends what you mean by consultation. He also downplayed the significance of the current British mood of criticism of Irish attitudes and allowed as how his Prime Minister considers him (Gowrie) a Provo! Although he did not use the words he spoke of the role of the British Government as that of an "honest broker" in bringing the parties in Northern Ireland toward a settlement. He does not think that either the SDLP or the Official Unionists are in any danger of having their present level of community support eroded at the polls in the forthcoming elections.

Although the Minister of State is by the standards of the Conservative party a liberal on the subject of Ireland, he is personally pleasant and open and has the advantage of being a native of Dublin, I was left with the impression that it would be a quantum leap for him to understand or accept the

presuppositions of an Irish dimension such as would govern the thinking of ourselves and say, the SDLP.

*Carmel B. Heaney*

Carmel B. Heaney  
Consul General

CBH/cad