

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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~~Mr. W. D. Brewster~~ Mr. Nally ~~Mr. Hare~~ Reid 1715  
~~Mr. Murphy~~ To see, hl. Taoiseach  
Mr. ~~Hare~~ ~~W. D. Brewster~~ You may wish to see  
Note S. 22456 1/4 S. 82 please, in view of your recent  
14. 5. 82 Call by American Ambassador letter to the ambassador  
(American). ✓ ✓ ✓

The new U.S. Ambassador made a courtesy call on the undersigned on 11 May. I described the function of the Division and outlined the Government's current stance on Anglo-Irish relations with particular reference to the Prior proposals and to the Anglo-Irish process. I emphasised the importance for us of the next summit meeting between the Taoiseach and Mrs. Thatcher as an opportunity to relaunch the Taoiseach's Anglo-Irish initiative, and explained the Government's sense of disappointment over the retreat on the British side from their earlier approach to our bilateral relationship and to the shared problem of Northern Ireland.

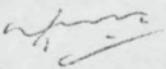
As regards the U.S. dimension, I reminded the Ambassador of the themes of the Taoiseach's visit to the U.S.A. in March, namely, the reassertion of the national aim of reunification by agreement and a call to the U.S. Administration and the American people to support that aim, particularly vis-à-vis the British Government; and the presentation of Ireland as a progressive economy and a desirable and profitable place in which to invest.

The Ambassador commented on what he described as the change in our approach to the Falkland Islands crisis. He expressed the view that our withdrawal from economic sanctions would be seen in London as an anti-British move and wondered what effect that would have on bilateral relations. I denied that our policy had changed - rather the circumstances in the South Atlantic had taken on a new aspect - or that it was motivated by anti-British feeling. The British had had the misfortune to get into difficulties in the Falklands and we were determined to be as helpful as we could. In the circumstances the most helpful thing, in the interests of world peace and stability, was to reemphasise what had always been our basic concern, the primacy of a peaceful solution arrived at through negotiations in which the United Nations should have a due role.

I acknowledged the Ambassador's suggestion that there seemed to be a certain amount of anti-British feeling in the country at present, arising out of the Falkland Islands crisis. I told the Ambassador that we were also aware of a very considerable reaction to these events amongst unionists in Northern Ireland - this had been expressed by Mr. Molyneaux in Westminster and very frequently in the Northern Ireland media. However I said that it seemed to me that the most striking aspect of public opinion in this connection was the horror felt by people over the loss of life and destruction resulting from military action in the area.

The Ambassador asked what we would like to see the U.S. administration do to help achieve our Anglo-Irish policy aims. I said that we might have a number of expectations in this regard, and of course certain of them, notably American interest in economic reconstruction in Northern Ireland after a settlement, had already been met in Washington, but the principal point we would like to achieve would be a declaration by the American administration to the effect that it actively favoured and supported a solution to the Northern Ireland problem based on a new negotiated all-Ireland settlement in which within one State both major traditions would be totally respected and guaranteed. In explaining this aim I pointed to the permanent instability and political failure of Northern Ireland and the absolute necessity for a different basis if stability and peace were ever to be restored.

The Ambassador confirmed the visit by the group of Friends of Ireland at the end of the month and we spoke briefly about arrangements for that group.

  
D.M. Neligan  
13 May, 1982