

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



<b>Reference Code:</b>	2015/51/1381
<b>Creation Date(s):</b>	11 June 1985
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	2 pages
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs
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SECRET

In view of Mr. O'Ceallaigh's report of his conversation with Bob Cooper and the imminence of the publication of Cooper's report (it may be published before the end of the week), the emerging criticism of Shorts (see today's Irish Times) and the coincidence of the visit of Comptroller Goldin of New York City this weekend, I called the British Ambassador this morning and asked him to come to the Department. It would have been highly inconvenient for him to come in today (although he was willing to do so) and in the circumstances I agreed to see Mr. Stimpson.

I told Stimpson that controversy was already beginning to emerge about discriminatory recruitment practices at the existing East Belfast factory of Shorts and that this would be used by Goldin for controversial and perhaps possible damaging purposes in the US. I reminded him of the assistance we had given to Shorts to secure the US contract. I reminded him further of the specific efforts made by the Taoiseach in his recent visit to the US to discourage the application of the McBride principles and the possibility of US disinvestment in Northern Ireland. I said that the emergence of evidence of a revival of discrimination in Shorts would be damaging to the Taoiseach, the Minister and to friends of the Irish Government on Capitol Hill who had stuck their necks out against their own interests to help Shorts. I said it was deeply depressing that the old patterns were emerging - in the period just after the contract

had been secured. I said that as this controversy developed, we would certainly have little option but to raise the matter in a formal way with the British. (Note: in order to protect the information we had from Cooper, I had to make my remarks rather general).

I said that at this stage I was informally suggesting to him that in the interest of Anglo-Irish relations and in the separate interests of our two Governments it was extremely important that the British should be seen to be critical of any evidence of discrimination in Shorts and moreover, pushing strongly both for the avoidance of discrimination and the establishment of the West Belfast Project.

Stimpson expressed appreciation of our letting him know about this problem and concluded, "it's really up to us now, isn't it"? I agreed.

M J Lillis

11 June, 1985.

c.c. Taoiseach  
Tánaiste  
Minister  
Minister for Justice  
Attorney General  
Secretary  
Mr Nally  
Mr Ward  
Mr Quigley  
Anglo-Irish Section.