

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2015/89/65
Creation Date(s):	3 June 1985
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Box 630, 2000 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 887-6151 • Telex (RCA) 248370

19003

EMBARGOED
FOR RELEASE:
June 3, 1985

Press Contact:
Brian Atwood
202/887-6151

Chairman
Charles T. Manatt
Vice Chair
Madeline K. Albright
Secretary
Rachelle Horowitz
Treasurer
Peter O. Kelly
Ex Officio
Paul O. Kirk, Jr.

Executive Director
J. Brian Atwood

Board of Directors
Richard F. Coleate
Lynn Cutler
Mervyn M. Dymally
Arvonne B. Fraser
Mary Hatwood Futrell
Richard G. Hatcher
Marife Hernandez
John T. Joyce
Penn Kemble
Leon Lynch
Patay T. Mink
Daniel Patrick Moynihan
R. Spencer Oliver
Carmen O. Pares
Leland S. Prussie
Nina Rosenwald
Terry Sanford
Robert Sledge
Michael R. Steed
Cyrus R. Vance
Kathleen M. Vick
Glenn E. Watts
Marvin F. Weissberg
Anne Wexler
Andrew J. Young

NDI to Work in Northern Ireland with Hume Party

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) announced today that it will work with the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) of Northern Ireland to create an SDLP institute similar to NDI.

The new institute will constitute for SDLP officials an important center wherein long-range party strategies can be considered, policy positions debated, developmental goals established and relations conducted with similar party institutions and foundations in the United States and Europe.

NDI also announced that it will soon send a team of Democratic Party representatives to Northern Ireland to work with SDLP officials in the establishment of the institute and to conduct a feasibility study to determine ways in which NDI and the SDLP institute might offer mutually reinforcing assistance.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party has long stood for a non-violent approach to the problems of Northern Ireland and for negotiations with all parties to achieve its nationalistic objectives. The SDLP, the largest party in the minority Catholic community of the North, grew out of the civil rights movement of the late 1960's. Its leader, John Hume, a member of both Westminster and European Parliaments, is a strong voice of reason and non-violence; his work is known far beyond the borders of his troubled homeland. Hume has frequently visited the United States where he has many friends and supporters in both political parties.

Hume welcomed the new association with NDI. "The SDLP has long had a strong relationship with leaders of the Democratic Party. This association with NDI will extend that relationship to the mutual benefit of our parties. There is much to be learned from the modern and innovative political techniques used by the Democratic Party and there is much the SDLP can learn about its struggle to strengthen the democratic process in a conflict situation."

Executive Director, Brian Atwood, explained the new NDI project: "In associating with the SDLP, a party which is a strong advocate of peace, civil rights, non-violence and the democratic process, NDI is fulfilling its mandate to encourage and strengthen the democratic process. Both sides will benefit from this relationship which we hope will grow in the future."

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs operates on a grant from the National Endowment for Democracy and receives support from private donors. Affiliated with the Democratic Party principally through the composition of its Board of Directors, all prominent Democrats, NDI is legally a non-profit organization prohibited from engaging in partisan activities on behalf of the Democratic Party.

NDI is engaged in projects in South America and Africa as well as Northern Ireland. These projects range from training of political leaders to civic education activities in support of democratic systems to assistance and advice on legislative reform initiatives. NDI responds to requests received from democratic institutions overseas and makes project decisions based on an assessment of the importance of the institution to the democratic system within which it operates, not on any partisan or ideological basis.