

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

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*Thosach  
Tuisce  
Mrs. [unclear]  
M. [unclear]  
A. [unclear]*

*Secretary  
Mr. [unclear]  
Mr. [unclear]  
Mr. [unclear]*

Confidential

16 October, 1985

Dear Assistant Secretary

Unionist Lobbying in London

The OUP and DUP are preparing a last minute assault on the London media in an effort to unnerve the British Government and make it think again about the dangers of engaging a "<sup>second</sup> ground front" in Northern Ireland. There is now a real danger that unionist lobbying against the talks will be fuelled by any suggestion that the delay in reaching agreement results, not from scheduling problems, but from second thoughts by Mrs. Thatcher on the merits of the whole exercise. (Unionists are encouraged by the fact that intensive lobbying combined with the Achillo Lauro hijacking led to Mrs. Thatcher's loss of nerve with the PLO).

The following are the principal examples of such lobbying that have come to our knowledge:

1. Frank Miller, General Secretary of the OUP was in London two weeks ago and succeeded in convincing TE Utley (Telegraph) and to a lesser extent Owen Hickey (Times) that Unionists have a legitimate grievance. I had lunch with Hickey on Monday (14 October) and he seemed to admit that he had gone too far in (a) stating that so much had been "stacked against political unionism" and (b) advocating "full local government" for unionists. I would hope for a more balanced editorial from the Times when dignity permits which will be quietly supportive of an agreement. (Incidentally, the editor, Charles Douglas Home, who disapproves strongly of our neutrality, has bone cancer and colleagues are talking of a short list for the successor which includes Colin Webb and Peter Stodhart, both of the Times and Andrew Knight, editor of the Economist).

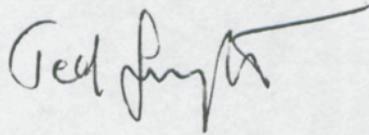
Miller will be in London to give more briefings this week and Geoffrey Taylor of the Guardian has told us that he will be meeting him today.

2. A separate lobbying effort has been organised for today by David Burnside, PRO for British Airways and ex Bill Craig's

Vanguard. Burnside seems to have struck up with John Taylor MP who is the featured guest at a breakfast today in the Savoy, billed as an "Ulster Fry". Apparently this event was arranged without Molyneaux's knowledge and is seen as a publicity stunt in Northern Ireland for Taylor. Frank Miller has now been drafted into the breakfast along with David Trimble, the QUB law lecturer.

I will report on this event when I hear further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ted Smyth", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ted Smyth

Mr. Michael Lillis  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin 2