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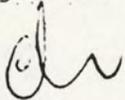
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Letter, Independent
29.10.86

British briefing on Three-Judge Courts

We understand the lobby was briefed yesterday with the attached results in today's papers. Points to note are:

- Hailsham is clearly identified as the "blocker" of a decision in favour of the proposal.
- Lowry is not mentioned save for a reference to "some senior figures in the Northern Ireland judiciary" in the Independent.
- Specified senior Ministers are said to be in favour (King, Howe, and even Havers in the Guardian).
- The reasoning of those in favour emphasises the perception of the Diplock System, especially in the USA.
- The Prime Minister will not overrule Hailsham.
- The impression given however is not of a final decision for all time, but of a decision which could well be reversed when Hailsham retires.
- The leader in the Independent describes the three-judge idea, together with the idea of more Catholic appointments to the Bench and more cases to be referred to trial by jury, as "reasonable interim reforms which should be embraced against the day when jury trials can be resumed".
- The Taoiseach is said to be about to introduce the extradition legislation "probably next week".



Declan O'Donovan,
29 October, 1986.

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Minister
Minister for Justice
Attorney General
Secretary
Mr. Nally
Mr. Ward
Mr. Russell
Mr. Lillis
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