



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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25 MARCH 1937
CLASSIFIED
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IMMEDIATE

25/3/37
CS

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR B DAVENPORT FROM M BURKE
MMMGRACE

SHORT BROTHERS

1. AS INDICATED EARLIER SIR PHILIP FOREMAN, ALEC ROBERTS AND RICHARD SINNOTT (WASHINGTON LOBBYIST FOR SHORTS) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MACKERNAN AND MYSELF.

2. IN RELATION TO POSSIBLE FUTURE ORDERS FOR SHORTS AIRCRAFT, FOREMAN WAS HOPEFUL THAT A FURTHER 15 AIRCRAFT WOULD BE ORDERED BY THE DEPT OF DEFENCE FOR USE BY THE NATIONAL GUARD. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING MR SINNOTT SAID THAT MONEY HAD NOT YET BEEN APPROPRIATED BUT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT CONG MURTHA (D-PENN) WOULD BE ABLE TO INSERT A PROVISION INTO THIS YEAR'S SUPPLEMENTAL. SHORTS POSITION HAS ALSO BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND US AUTHORITIES TO HAVE OFFSET PURCHASES FROM THE UK TO BALANCE THE BRITISH ORDERS FOR BOEING-MADE AWAC'S.

4. IN RELATION TO THE CURRENT MOOD AT THE EAST BELFAST FACILITY, FOREMAN SAID THAT THINGS WERE FAIRLY QUIET. SO FAR THE COMPROMISE OF FLYING THE UNION JACK AND NOT PERMITTING OTHER EMBLEMS HAS HELD UP. IN RESPONSE TO A SPECIFIC QUESTION ON POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES PARTICULARLY DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, FOREMAN SAID THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE SITUATION WOULD REMAIN QUIET BUT THERE WAS NO WAY THIS COULD BE GUARANTEED.

5. IN RELATION TO THE BRITISH PAPER ON EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY HE SAID THAT SHORTS HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED THEIR VIEWS. THE MAIN POINT OF CONCERN FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE WAS THE IMPLICATION THAT EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY WOULD HAVE TO BE REGULATED NOT IN AN OVERALL WAY BUT LEVEL BY LEVEL WITHIN THE COMPANY FROM UNSKILLED LABOUR RIGHT UP TO MANAGEMENT. HE FELT THAT THIS WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR. HE ALSO FELT THAT INTRODUCING THE ADDED ELEMENT OF MALE/FEMALE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY WAS UNNECESSARY.

6. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE OVERALL FAIR EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE COMPANY HE SAID THAT IN RECENT YEARS RECRUITMENT OF CATHOLICS AVERAGED 18 PERCENT AND THAT THIS WAS A BIG IMPROVEMENT ALTHOUGH HE ACCEPTED THAT SOME PEOPLE WOULD THINK IT WAS NOT ENOUGH. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE COMPANY RECENTLY CONDUCTED AN "AUDIT" OF THE PERCENTAGE OF CATHOLICS IN THE COMPANY AND HE CLAIMED THAT THE FIGURE WAS NOW 10 PERCENT. PROGRESS WAS THEREFORE IN HIS OPINION BEING MADE AND THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO TRY AND IMPROVE THE RATIO. WHEN ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER RECRUITMENT HE SAID THAT THEY WOULD HIRE UP TO 300 NEW EMPLOYEES THIS YEAR AND THAT WHILE THERE WAS POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER EXPANSION THE COMPANY WAS PARTICULARLY HINDERED BY ITS INABILITY TO ATTRACT GOOD MANAGERS (DUE TO THE GENERAL N.I. SITUATION) WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE HIGHLY TECHNICAL AREA OF MANUFACTURING AIRCRAFT AND MISSILES. X

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7. WE BROUGHT FOREMAN AND COMPANY UP-TO-DATE ON THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES AND DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS END. HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES AND THE BOEING COMPANY. THE OFFSET PURCHASES WERE IN HIS VIEW A TOTALLY SEPARATE ELEMENT AND SHOULD NOT INVOLVE THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES AND BOEING.

ZUGNSIEND  
440026 HIBERNIA

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