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Reference Code:	2018/28/2298
Creation Dates:	28 October 1988
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
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T E L E X

31 OCTOBER 1988

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR ANN ANDERSON FROM M. BURKE

Mr. Cowper Coles, Irish Desk Officer at the British Embassy here, invited Mr. O Críodáin and myself to lunch last Friday, 28th October, to meet Mr. Andrew Henderson, who has recently transferred to the Embassy from the British Consulate in New York, and who is dealing full-time with the campaign against the MacBride Principles. The discussion centered on the Principles and on the International Fund.

MacBride Principles

Mr. Henderson said that the Embassy's objective towards the MacBride campaign is essentially one of containment rather than defeat. The only hope of relief lies in the early passage through Parliament of the proposed fair employment legislation, and of that legislation having a significant impact on interested public opinion here. Pending its passage, the Embassy is attempting to stall efforts to have MacBride Bills passed in individual cities and states, or where this is an unrealistic objective, to dilute the substance of the Bills concerned. In some states, such as California, where attempts to have legislation passed have so far been unsuccessful, the Embassy believes that it has secured only a stay of execution, that supporters of the Principles will probably return to the fray, their prospects enhanced by the knowledge gained from previous defeats. In the specific case of California, Mr. Henderson said that the main reason for the last Bill's failure was the sponsorship of Tom Hayden. The Embassy's information is that supporters of the Principles are preparing a new Bill to be backed by different sponsors in the State Legislature, and that California is likely to be a major battleground again next year. Ohio and Pennsylvania were also mentioned as key battlegrounds in the coming year.

Mr. Henderson asked about the degree of interest among State legislators in the Irish Government's policy to the Principles. We replied that the Embassy and the Consulates had received a number of queries on the subject. Our policy had been set out clearly in statements by the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste.

INTERNATIONAL FUND

Mr. Cowper-Coles reported that the Minister at the Embassy, Mr. Brian Fall, would raise the Fund issue again later on Friday with Mr. Jim Wilkinson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs at the State Department, ostensibly on the grounds that the Embassy was currently engaged in the preparation of briefs for Mrs. Thatcher's visit here next month, and was anxious to have an indication of how matters stood in that context. (Mr. Cowper-Coles called after the meeting between Mr. Fall and Mr. Wilkinson to say that the latter had held out very little hope of the State Department agreeing to allocate more than \$10 million in FY 1989.) Mr. Cowper-Coles understands that the State Department is unlikely to make public its decisions on foreign operations appropriations until after the Israeli election, but that a decision may emerge this week.

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