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TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR D GALLAGHER FROM M BURKE
MMMGRACE

JOHN HUME'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, 4-5 MAY 1988

1. I ARRANGED WITH BRIAN DONNELLY FOR A MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND GROUP WITH MR HUME WHICH TOOK PLACE IN MAJORITY LEADER FOLEY'S OFFICE. THE MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED BRIAN DONNELLY (D-MA), CHAIRMAN OF THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND GROUP, MATT MCHUGH (D-NY), JOE MCDADE (R-PA), RAY MCGRATH (R-NY), JACK MURTHA (D-PA), LINDY BOGGS (D-LA), JOE MOAKLEY (D-MA), STEVE SOLARZ (D-NY), BILL COYNE (D-PA), BILL GREEN (R-NY), BEN DWYER (D-NJ), MEL LEVINE (D-CA), AND SILVIO CONTE (R-MA). THE MAJORITY LEADER WAS ABSENT DUE TO ILLNESS.

2. IN HIS INITIAL PRESENTATION, HUME REVIEWED RECENT EVENTS RANGING FROM STALKER-SAMPSON TO GIBRALTER, ETC. HE SAID THAT THE PROBLEM WAS HOWEVER NOT CONFINED TO NORTHERN IRELAND AND HE PRAISED THE ANGLO-IRISH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE AS A MEANS OF DEALING WITH AND CONTAINING THE PROBLEMS THAT HAD ARISEN IN RECENT MONTHS. HE REFERRED TO THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE IN THE AREA OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND THE VALUABLE ROLE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WAS PLAYING IN PUSHING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TOWARDS LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD HAVE A REAL IMPACT. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF INWARD INVESTMENT AND THE NEED TO CREATE NEW JOBS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. HE MADE THE POINT THAT IN THE PERIOD UP TO THE EARLY SEVENTIES DISCRIMINATION HAD TAKEN PLACE THROUGH THE LOCATION OF 217 COMPANIES IN AREAS EAST OF THE BANN AND LESS THAN TWENTY IN CATHOLIC AREAS WEST OF THE BANN. HE SAW THE ANGLO-IRISH CONFERENCE AS A "BUILDING PROCESS" WHICH GAVE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT A ROLE AND GAVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE MINORITY COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED IT AND FELT THAT IT COULD BE DEVELOPED FURTHER.

3. THE UNIONIST COMMUNITY HAD SHOWN SIGNS RECENTLY OF SOME MOVEMENT FORWARD. PEOPLE SUCH AS PAISLEY HOWEVER WERE STILL NOT WILLING TO COMPROMISE AND THREATENED POSSIBLE PROGRESS ON THE UNIONIST SIDE. THE OUP WAS MORE AMENABLE TO THE IDEA OF CHANGE BUT WERE AFRAID OF THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. HE FELT THAT THE NEXT MOST IMPORTANT STAGE WOULD BE FOR THE UNIONIST LEADERSHIP TO TALK TO THE DUBLIN GOVERNMENT. HE WAS FULLY CONVINCED OF MRS THATCHER'S SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT WHICH REMAINED VERY FIRM.

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4. HE BRIEFLY EXPLAINED HIS APPROACH TO THE TALKS WITH SINN FEIN SAYING THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR HIM AS THE LEADER OF CONSTITUTIONAL NATIONALISM IN N.I. TO TRY AND PRODUCE A SITUATION IN WHICH THERE WOULD BE A CESSATION OF ALL VIOLENCE AND TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO SINN FEIN THAT THEY WOULD BE WELCOME AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE IF THEY ABANDONED THE USE OF VIOLENCE. HE FAVOURED THE IDEA OF A CONFERENCE OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES INVOLVED WHICH SHOULD BE CONVENED BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT. HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT SINN FEIN'S CREDIBILITY SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED IN THE MEANTIME THROUGH OTHER PARTIES HAVING MEETINGS WITH THEM. IF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SINN FEIN BROKE DOWN THEN HE WOULD BE IN THE BEST POSITION TO HIGHLIGHT THE ILLOGICALITY OF THEIR APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST IN N.I.

5. STEVE SOLARZ COMMENTED THAT MR HUME'S PRESENTATION WAS A 'RAY OF LIGHT' IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION AND ASKED WHAT CONGRESS COULD DO TO HELP. MR HUME RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT CONGRESS SHOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE SUPPORT TO THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT AND THE PROCESS IT INVOLVED. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND AND US SUPPORT FOR IT. WHILE THE MONEY INVOLVED WAS IMPORTANT, THE POLITICAL MESSAGE THAT THE SUPPORT INDICATED WAS VITAL. CONG MCHUGH INDICATED THAT THE FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HAD THAT VERY DAY AGREED TO AN APPROPRIATION OF 10 MILLION DLRS AND NOT MORE THAN 35 MILLION DLRS. HE WONDERED HOW EFFECTIVE THE FUND EXPENDITURE HAD BEEN IN N.I. MR HUME IN REPLY REFERRED TO PROJECTS SUCH AS EUROCENTER WEST WHICH WOULD PROVIDE 300 JOBS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF DERRY AIRPORT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE MORE JOBS. HE STRESSED THE INTEGRITY AND COMMITMENT OF MR CHARLES BRETT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND. IN A JOCLAR MANNER MR HUME SAID THAT BRETT MIGHT NOT BE THE EASIEST PERSON TO DEAL WITH, BUT HE HAD DISPLAYED DURING HIS TIME AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE THAT HE WAS A MAN OF THE UTMOST IMPARTIALITY AND INTEGRITY.

6. CONG DONNELLY RAISED THE QUESTION OF GIBRALTAR AND IN RESPONSE MR HUME SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN A SERIOUS MISTAKE ON THE PART OF THE BRITISH TO HANDLE THE MATTER IN A WAY WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF THREE PEOPLE. THE GIBRALTAR SHOOTING WOULD IN HIS OPINION CONTINUE TO HAUNT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

7. CONG MURTHA (WHO IS ON DEFENCE APPROPRIATIONS) RAISED THE QUESTION OF SHORT BROTHERS AND ASKED WHAT MR HUME FELT ABOUT CONTINUED CONTRACTS BEING AWARDED BY THE US DEPT OF DEFENCE TO SHORT BROTHERS. HUME IN RESPONSE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN DISCRIMINATION IN SHORTS. SOME EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION THROUGH INCREASED RECRUITMENT OF APPRENTICES BUT ONE HAD ALSO TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LOCATION OF THE PLANT IN EAST BELFAST WHERE IT CAN BE DANGEROUS AND THREATENING FOR CATHOLICS TO WORK. WHILE HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH SHORTS' PERFORMANCE IN TERMS OF JOB DISCRIMINATION HE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE PROTESTANT WORKERS PUT OUT OF EMPLOYMENT. THAT COULD ONLY RESULT IN FURTHER TROUBLE ON THE STREETS. (MURTHA'S QUESTION WAS PROMPTED BY JOE KENNEDY'S AMENDMENT TO THE DEFENCE APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND THERE WAS A CLEAR TONE OF DISAPPROVAL OF JOE KENNEDY'S ACTION AMONG CONGRESSMEN SUCH AS MURTHA, MOAKLEY AND MCHUGH).

8. CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH ASKED WHEN THE TALKS WITH THE IRA WOULD LIKELY COME TO A CONCLUSION. MR HUME IN RESPONSE SAID THAT GERRY ADAMS WANTED TO TAKE THE ISSUE TO THE GRASSROOTS OF HIS ORGANISATION BEFORE GIVING A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE. HE FELT IT WOULD BE AT LEAST 6/8 WEEKS BEFORE IT WAS CLEAR WHICH DIRECTION SF WOULD MOVE TOWARDS.

9. IN THE ABSENCE OF SENATOR KENNEDY (THE SENATE WAS IN RECESS LAST WEEK) MR HUME ASKED TO SEE CAREY PARKER, THE CHIEF ADVISER TO SEN KENNEDY. MR HUME BRIEFED MR PARKER IN GREAT DETAIL ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SINN FEIN AND HIS APPROACH TO THOSE DISCUSSIONS. MR PARKER UNDERTOOK TO BRIEF THE SENATOR FULLY ON HIS RETURN. MR HUME ALSO RAISED WITH PARKER THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY LOCATING A FACILITY AT THE OLD DELOREAN PLANT DUE TO A DEAL FALLING THROUGH NTNEPFKLXTKKRWWOABURTS SRXW HMU

CILITY AT THE OLD DELOREAN PLANT DUE TO A DEAL FALLING THROUGH TO OPEN A FACIILITY IN DUNDALK (DUE TO UNION PROBLEMS). I UNDERSTAND SUBSEQUENTLY FROM PARKER THAT SEN KENNEDY HAS TELEPHONED THE FORD COMPANY TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO SELECT WEST BELFAST FOR THEIR NEW FACILITY.

10. WE HAD A MEETING ALSO WITH CONGRESSMAN JOE KENNEDY AND HIS SENIOR ASSISTANT, CHUCK MCDERMOTT, DURING WHICH MR HUME OUTLINED IN GENERAL TERMS HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN N.I. AND HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SINN FEIN. CONG KENNEDY WAS ANXIOUS TO EXPLORE AGAIN THE REASON WHY MR HUME HAD DISCOURAGED HIM VIGOROUSLY FROM MEETING SINN FEIN WHEN HE WAS IN N.I. MR HUME POINTED TO HIS VIEW THAT NO GREATER CREDIBILITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SINN FEIN THROUGH MEETINGS WITH OTHER LEADERS OR POLITICIANS UNLESS OR UNTIL THEY WERE PREPARED TO MOVE TOWARDS A CESSATION OF VIOLENCE. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT CONG KENNEDY IS NOT FULLY CONVINCED OF THIS ARGUMENT. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF CONG KENNEDY'S RECENT AMENDMENT TO THE DEFENCE APPROPRIATIONS BILL WHICH REQUIRES FOREIGN COMPANIES TO PRACTICE NON-DISCRIMINATION, ETC, IN EMPLOYMENT. HE SAID THAT HIS LEGISLATION HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN INTENDED TO HIT AT COMPANIES SUCH AS SHORTS BROTHERS BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN PERSUADED TO ACCEPT AMENDMENTS WHICH WEAKENED ITS EFFECT. HE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD NOT NOW HAVE AN IMPACT ON SHORT BROTHERS BUT HE DID NOT WISH TO SAY THIS PUBLICLY. HE MADE NO REFERENCE FOR OBVIOUS REASONS TO THE FACT THAT HIS BILL HAD TO BE AMENDED AS A RESULT OF HEAVY PRESSURE FROM SPEAKER WRIGHT, CONG MURTHA ETC (MY C145 OF 5 MAY REFERS).

11. I HAVE REPORTED SEPARATELY (MY C149 OF 6 NMAY) ON MR HUME'S MEETING WITH SPEAKER WRIGHT IN RELATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND. MR HUME IN A RELATIVELY BRIEF DISCUSSION THANKED THE SPEAKER FOR HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE A.I. AGREEMENT AND THE FUND AND STRUCK A NOTE OF OPTIMISM IN RELATION TO SOME MOVEMENT OF OPINION ON THE UNIONIST SIDE. HE FELT THAT THERE WAS A REAL POSSIBILITY OF DIALOGUE DEVELOPING BETWEEN UNIONIST LEADERS AND THE IRISH GOVERNMENT. HE ENCOURAGED THE SPEAKER TO MAKE A VISIT TO IRELAND AND THE SPEAKER IN RESPONSE WAS AS USUAL POSITIVE ON THE IDEA BUT DID NOT PROFFER ANY SPECIFIC TIMEFRAME.

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COMMENT

12. OVERALL HUME'S VISIT WAS HELPFUL IN EXPLAINING TO OUR FRIENDS HERE HIS APPROACH TO RECENT EVENTS AND IN PARTICULAR HIS DISCUSSION WITH SINN FEIN (THERE WAS NO DISSENT AT THIS END ON HIS EXPLANATION AND REASONING). HE ALSO GAVE A BOOST TO SUPPORT FOR THE A.I. AGREEMENT AND THE FUND--AN AREA IN WHICH AS YOU KNOW THERE IS A DEGREE OF CONCERN HERE AS A RESULT OF THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

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