

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF IRISH AMERICANS

APPENDIX C

ELLICOTT SQUARE BUILDING

BUFFALO, N.Y. 14203

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER  
46 WOODLAND STREET

WORCESTER, MA 01610

Feb. 18, 1982

President

Hyster Company, Industrial Truck Operation

P.O. Box 334

Danville, Ill. 61832

Dear Sir:

It has come to our attention that the Hyster Company will soon be setting up a plant in Northern Ireland for the production of industrial trucks. Aside from the risks involved for plant and personnel, we would like to point out some legal factors that must be taken into account when an American firm sets up an operation in Ulster.

The Ulster Development Authority (UDA) probably has not informed you of all the risks involved, because it has great difficulty in attracting foreign firms to Ulster. One factor you may not be aware of is the situation involving discrimination against Catholics in employment.

While American firms usually make an attempt to adopt fair employment practices, the problem of Catholics being intimidated in places of employment, or in districts through which they must pass on the way to work, presents a challenge to those who must have a fair-employment policy.

This can present a serious problem to American firms, since these firms must comply with the Fair Employment Act in overseas operations. Irish American organizations monitor the employment practices of these firms and will initiate legal, congressional and publicity proceedings when these firms do not comply with the law. The fact that Catholics cannot get to work will not obviate the need to comply with the law.

We suggest that you fully explore with the UDA all of the risks and hazards you may encounter, particularly the matter of fair employment.

Please note in the attachment to this letter the Rand Corporation's assessment of the problems of U.S. businesses operating abroad. We are certain that the UDA did not advise you of the problems mentioned in this report. The problem of discrimination has caused talented executives to refuse jobs in Ulster.

Yours sincerely,

*Michael D. McLoughlin*  
Michael D. McLoughlin  
Director, Massachusetts  
Chapter

c. Vice-President, Hyster Company



# are looking for trouble, invest in Northern Ireland

THE DISORDERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND MAKES THAT AREA A POOR RISK FOR AMERICAN INVESTMENT. DON'T ENDANGER YOUR COMPANY'S ASSETS. FINANCIAL DISASTER COULD RESULT.

## HERE ARE THE FACTS:

1. After years of British exploitation, Northern Ireland now finds itself engulfed in a bitter war. The struggle is between Irish Nationalists who resent foreign rule by an English government and the British army. Efforts to effectuate reform measures and restore human rights were attempted by civil rights groups beginning in 1968 but England outlawed political agitation and began interning political dissidents in concentration camps in 1971. Open warfare has raged since.
2. The economy is in shambles. The British army raids Catholic homes nightly. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), the Nationalist guerrilla army, retaliates. It is an endless process, aggravated by British refusal to restore human rights, and repeal internment laws. Britain seeks a military solution to what is basically a political problem, thus ensuring political and industrial instability. This has driven off foreign investment.

## CONSIDER THESE FACTORS BEFORE INVESTING IN NORTHERN IRELAND:

1. Political instability always breeds violence. A violent society never produces a healthy economy.....or profits. Can your stockholders afford such a risky venture as investments in Northern Ireland or Britain?
2. The "Special Powers" Act (now called the "Emergency Provisions Act") permits the government and the police to tell you who to hire and who to fire. The law also provides for internment without charge or trial, censorship of the press and confiscation of real and personal property without judicial proceedings. Similar legislation now applies to the United Kingdom and the Northern Ireland violence now permeates industry there as well.
3. Discriminatory Hiring Practices, set by government policy would have to be adopted by your company. This means that you would have to discriminate against Irish Catholics. Employment of Catholics would expose you to vandalism and damage to plant and equipment. Millions of dollars in damages are suffered each year.
4. Hiring Irish Catholics would expose you to industrial sabotage, a growing problem, rarely reported in the press. Discrimination against Catholics would make your firm subject to U. S. laws barring discrimination. You could be prosecuted in federal courts.
5. British firms no longer invest in Northern Ireland. Why should you?
6. Since 1968, not a single American firm has located in Northern Ireland. Those there have cancelled expansion programs. Others have threatened to close shop because of Britain's refusal to enact reform legislation.

WE URGE INVESTMENT IN IRELAND. IT CAN BE VERY PROFITABLE, PROVIDED YOU LOCATE OUTSIDE ULSTER, IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND. DON'T HELP TO SOLIDIFY THE STATUS QUO AND AND EXPOSE YOUR COMPANY TO UNCLE RICHARD BY LOCATING IN TROUBLED NORTHERN IRELAND