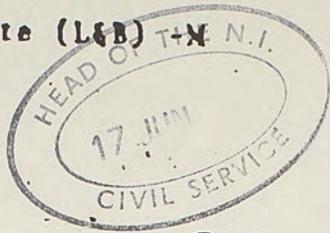


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1. Mr. Bloomfield/6/3/4/6
2. F/10

PS/Secretary of State (L&B) T-M N.I. cc



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- PS/Dr Boyson (L&B)-M
- PS/Mr Scott (L&B)-M
- PS/PUS (L&B)-M
- Mr Bloomfield -M
- Mr Fell (DED)-M
- Mr Wilson (DED)-M
- Mr McAllister (IDB)-M
- Mr Chesterton
- Mr Merifield -M
- Mr Ferneyhough -M
- Mr Carvill -M
- Mr Gilliland -M
- Mr Reeve -M
- Mr Cowling
- Mr Bickham

SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH COMPTROLLER OF NEW YORK CITY

The Secretary of State is to meet Mr Harrison Goldin, Comptroller of New York City Council, and Mr Pat Doherty, his aide, on Monday 17 June at 5.15pm.

Personality Notes

2. Mr Goldin, who is a lawyer and Democrat politician, and was in the New York senate until he became Comptroller in 1973, is the second most senior elected figure in New York City Council, and is believed to have higher ambitions. His post as Comptroller involves the oversight of \$15 billion of operating expenses, \$1 billion of capital spending, and \$15 billion for investment purposes.

3. Although Mr Goldin has expressed constructive intentions about his visit when speaking to our representatives in New York, he appears willing to associate with any group who might further his chances of re-election in October. He has contacts with a broad spectrum of Irish groups: he appeared on a platform last year with

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Martin C. lvin and representatives of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; he has close links with the Irish National Caucus; and he has attended NORRAID dinners.

4. His aide, Mr Doherty, is the son of an emigrant from Londonderry, but he is not known to have links with extreme Irish groups, or to hold strong opinions on the Irish question.

Background

5. We have arranged a programme of visits and meetings for Mr Goldin. These include talks with Mr Paddy Devlin, Mr John Cushnahan, and Mr Harold McCusker, and with the Fair Employment Agency. Mr Goldin has been given Mr John Hume's telephone number, and it is hoped that he will meet Mr Hume on his visit to Londonderry on Sunday. (Mr Goldin will be arriving in Northern Ireland on Saturday from Dublin, where we understand his programme included an appointment with Mr Barry.)

6. We have heard disturbing reports that the visit may be used to align Mr Goldin with Sinn Fein, and this is made more likely by the fact that Rita Mullen, of the Irish National Caucus, will be accompanying Mr Goldin on his visit. As I explained in my submission of 11 June, there is a danger that the meeting with the Secretary of State might follow a Sinn Fein organised programme in Londonderry on Sunday. For this reason, with the Secretary of State's approval, our representatives in New York have told Mr Goldin's office that the assistance we have given in arranging Mr Goldin's programme was on the clear understanding that he would be ready to meet and listen to a wide range of constitutional opinion; that our help, and the meeting with the Secretary of State, might be withdrawn if that understanding is not observed; and that the Secretary of State would meet Mr Goldin and Mr Doherty only. Mr Doherty has assured us that the primary purpose of the Londonderry visit on Sunday is to meet the SDLP.

7. At Dr Boyson's request, arrangements have been made for him to offer drinks to Mr Goldin and his party (though not, we hope, Ms Mullen) on 18 June. This is in the programme offered to Mr Goldin. If the visit is proving very different that engagement might be revised but otherwise we suggest it should go ahead.

The Meeting

a) Disinvestment

8. The focus of the meeting with the Secretary of State will be Mr Goldin's campaign to have the McBride Principles implemented and the Government's record in promoting fair employment in Northern Ireland. Ministers are aware of the attempt by the Irish National Caucus to compel US companies, either through shareholder resolutions or by the threat of disinvestment, to adopt the McBride Principles, a series of principles ostensibly designed to improve the lot of minority groups in the employment field. Briefing material on the McBride Principles is attached at Annex 1.

9. We have been making vigorous efforts to counter the disinvestment campaign in US, primarily through IDB and BIS, but also through the Chairman of the FEA, who has written to Mayor Koch of New York and others. HM Consul-General in New York has already challenged Mr Goldin on his report and support for the McBride Principles. Mr Goldin's view is that whatever the fair employment legislation in Northern Ireland might state the evidence suggests that the law here is not being sufficiently vigorously imposed and that discrimination still persists. His programme is designed to put into effect what he has described as the "high sounding principles" embodied in the fair employment legislation. Mr Goldin considers that our interpretation of the McBride Principles as admitting the possibility of reverse

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discrimination, perhaps in the form of quotas, is "tortured and strained". Mr Goldin apparently concedes that others might advocate the application of the McBride Principles for political purposes unconnected with employment and does not deny that any initiative that generated controversy might risk unsettling potential employers but he says his concern is to protect New York City's investment and encourage the conduct of fair employment practices in companies of which they were the owners.

10. The Secretary of State should also be aware that the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives are considering a draft Act which would require the State Treasurer, when necessary and appropriate, to initiate and support shareholder petitions or initiatives requiring US companies operating in Northern Ireland to adhere to or adopt the McBride Principles. Given that official UK participation in the hearings is ruled out Mr Jim Eccles will be putting the Northern Ireland viewpoint.

11. An analysis of Mr Goldin's report and briefing on the line to take is provided at Annex II. Also attached is further information regarding fair employment arrangements in Northern Ireland (Annex III), and briefing on Shorts recruitment practices (Annex IV) and a note on the current situation regarding contacts with US companies (Annex V).

b) Other issues

12. Although Mr Goldin's primary interest is likely to be on employment practices he may raise other issues. The most

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emotive issue in the US remains strip searching, and, if Mr Goldin raises the subject, the Secretary of State may wish to hand him the attached copy of our recently published booklet. Other specific issues which may be raised include security policy (especially "shoot to kill" and plastic baton rounds), the Diplock Courts and "supergrasses". The Secretary of State will no doubt wish to explain in broad terms the Government's policies on these issues if they are raised, but I doubt that he should do so unprompted. It seems unlikely that Mr Goldin can be persuaded to alter his views radically.

13. There might be advantage, however, in the Secretary of State referring directly to the problem of support in the United States for terrorist organisations in Northern Ireland. The Secretary of State will not want to get into a wrangle about NORAID but we would not want Mr Goldin to be able to say afterwards that the Secretary of State had made no reference to the problem. In this respect the points which might be made are:

1. Terrorists are killing Irish people and are jeopardising the prospects for progress.
2. Terrorists are condemned not only by the UK Government but also the Irish Government, and the SDLP.
3. The UK Government recognises and defends the right of constitutional parties to express nationalist views and to work for the reunification of Ireland.

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4. The Government cannot condone and will have no direct dealing with those who advocate, condone or support violence. It can have no truck therefore with Sinn Fein.

5. The SDLP attracts far larger electoral support than Sinn Fein, which is not representative of the majority of nationalist opinion in Northern Ireland.

6. The Government regrets the actions of those in other countries who, perhaps unwittingly, support violence in Northern Ireland either by financial assistance to organisations like NORAIID or ^{by} demonstrating in their support.

7. Such support only gives encouragement to terrorism

13. The Secretary of State may also wish to make clear to Mr Goldin his determination to work for greater peace and political understanding in Northern Ireland. Much reckless opposition in the United States is borne of a sense of frustration and a brief outline of Government policy on internal development and Anglo-Irish relations should at least put on record that the Government is trying to be constructive.

J. M. Lyon

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J M Lyon

14 June 1985

Security and International Division