

E.R.



577/9,

Mr Coulson

cc: | PS/Mr Bloomfield
 Mr Fell
 Mr McAllister
 Mr Chesterton
 Mr Hodges
 Ms Pease

1. Dec 211
 sub file

NORTHERN IRELAND: MacBRIDE PRINCIPLES - NEW YORK STAFFING

Ms Pease may have shown you the earlier papers dealing with our concern that we are understaffed in the United States to meet the threat posed by the MacBride Principles. The salient facts were set out in my minute of 26 August to Mr Bloomfield, who has, I gather, discussed the issue further both with Mr Mellon and also with Mr Fell - but to what effect, I do not know.

2. The purpose of this minute is chiefly to feed into the system ... the job description provided by Mr Mellon for the post which, a suitable candidate and funds being available, we wish to create in New York. As you will see, the job offered is a challenging one requiring not only considerable personal gifts and experience and close knowledge of Northern Ireland, but who should also be able to deal confidently with the full spectrum of HMG's interests. There will not be too many people around the system who could match such a demanding specification. But it is ^{not only} a potentially important job in defending Northern Ireland's interests abroad, but it would also be a marvellously stimulating one in terms of the lucky officer's career development. Thus, while the head hunters might ^{be right to} direct their attention in the first instance more to the DED/IDB area, I would be personally slightly more disposed than Ms Pease (in her minute to me of 27 August) to the idea of ^{members of} the permanent HCS cadre of the NIO also being considered from time to time.

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3. At all events, the post is too attractive to be lost, unless absolutely necessary, to the Diplomatic Service (where it seems from his letter of 17 September to Mr Clark that Mr Mellon is now looking for talent). We may have to move fast if we are to secure the post at all - and for ourselves -

I hope accordingly, that in conjunction with your colleagues in Northern Ireland, you will be able to enable me to respond to the FCO as soon as possible.

P N Bell

P N BELL

25 September 1986



NORTHERN IRELAND: DS 6: BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL, NEW YORK

JOB DESCRIPTION

The officer will be responsible for explaining HMG's policies on Northern Ireland to politicians and political groups in the New York consular district, augmenting the information work carried out by BIS with the local media. The officer will be responsible for monitoring, and lobbying against, any measure critical of HMG's policies in Northern Ireland put forward in state, city or local legislatures within the New York consular district. In particular, the officer will lobby against legislative measures incorporating the MacBride Principles and seek to counter the influence of radical Irish-American groups with local politicians in the consular district. The officer would be accredited and based in the New York Consulate-General but would give advice and practical support to other Posts in the US in their own lobbying efforts against similar measures in their districts.

2. The job involves an active lobbying campaign in the American style and will therefore involve regular and frequent visits to state capitols and major cities within the New York consular district. The officer would need to develop a wide range of political contacts with local legislators and their aides and should therefore be confident in dealing with fairly senior politicians. This will take up 100% of the officer's time; but to ensure credibility in developing such contacts, the officer should be able to deal confidently with the full spectrum of HMG's interests. He should be seen to act in a fully representational role, not as a one topic lobbyist.

3. The officer would also maintain the index of politicians and political organisations in the consular district and be responsible for monitoring their activities. The officer should also take advantage of the political contacts derived from his primary role to assist the Consul-General in reporting on political developments within the New York consular district.

4. It would be desirable that the officer concerned should have experience and close knowledge of the Northern Ireland situation and should also be able to deal with a broad range of issues. Aptitude for political contact work and reporting is the primary qualification.

5. The officer will work to the Consul-General through the DS 5 designated to help to co-ordinate the Consul-General's work. He/she will be responsible for liaising closely with BIS, which would remain responsible for contact with the media and with IDBNI which would continue to be responsible for liaising with US corporations.

BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL
NEW YORK
17 September 1986