

10/10

I agree with Decision  
a subject for a quiet article  
most) between  
1. Mr Bell  
2. PS/Mr Viggers (L&B) - M

RESTRICTED

Please MUFAX -

PS/POS (L&B) - M

- cc: PS/Sir K Bloomfield - M ✓
- Mr Burns \*
- Mr Fell - M
- Mr Chesterton
- Mr Mayne - M
- Mr Wood \* - M
- Mr R Wilson - M
- Mr Wolstencroft - M

23/7  
+2872  
D ED 2/1

Ministers. But we shall  
have to watch his points to ensure  
that FC use their anti-MacBride resource  
as effectively as possible (in B227).  
BIS NEW YORK: MISS McIVER'S REPLY



1. In his minute dated 6 July reporting on Dr Mawhinney's visit to the USA in April this year, Mr Black records his Minister's view that with the appointment of Mr Andrew Henderson to the staff of the New York Consul General to focus primarily on countering the MacBride campaign, Miss Janet McIver (who has spent most of her time in BIS New York working on MacBride issues) should be freed to work on the full range of Northern Ireland topics both within New York and elsewhere. Dr Mawhinney believes that Miss McIver's "release from the MacBride issue" should enable her - if sufficient resources for travel are made available - considerably to "supplement and complement the work of ... local information officers [elsewhere in the US]".

2. In his minute of 15 July covering a draft note for Mr Viggers to consider sending to Dr Mawhinney, Mr Mayne expresses concern at the suggestion that Miss McIver may spend less time on the MacBride issue and suggests that the Minister may wish to register with his colleague that this would be inappropriate since

- (i) Mr Henderson was posted to New York to provide additional, not substitute, capacity on MacBride; and
- (ii) we are aiming to step up our efforts against the MacBride campaign in the coming months.



RESTRICTED

# RESTRICTED

3. As a supplement <sup>to</sup> Mr Mayne's minute, it may be worth noting from the SIL viewpoint that since Dr Mawhinney's visit to the USA, there have been one or two developments in this area which are relevant to any approach Mr Viggers may decide to make to his colleague. In particular we have (in agreement with DED) approached the FCO at senior level to express our concern (based very much on the same considerations listed by Mr Mayne) at the possibility that following Mr Henderson's arrival Miss McIver may withdraw somewhat from MacBride work. We also raised the separate question of whether Mr Henderson would have the flexibility to visit and set up contacts in States outside the New York consular district where this is necessary to counter the MacBride campaign (as we had originally understood) or whether he would be confined exclusively within the New York district (which has been suggested more recently).
4. We have now received a response from the FCO which is quite helpful in respect of the Henderson remit, stressing that there is no question of confining him to the New York area and indicating that he will be regarded as a resource on MacBride to be tapped by the Embassy and Consuls General as necessary. On Miss McIver, the FCO hope that with Henderson's arrival she will be able to extend her information work (which has hitherto focussed almost exclusively on MacBride) to cover a wider range of Northern Ireland topics of interest to the US media - this will of course include MacBride, but will also extend to the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the judicial system, extradition, etc.
5. While this response on Miss McIver is perhaps not all we might have hoped, it seems unlikely that a further approach to the FCO would be fruitful at this stage. Our initial approach to them (which was made at Deputy Secretary level and followed up by a discussion between the two PUSs) stressed the particular interest which the Secretary of State and other NIO Ministers take in our anti-MacBride lobbying effort in the USA. Their response offers a helpful concession on the Henderson remit. In respect of Miss McIver, although we are fully entitled to our own views the FCO will tend to stick to the line that the

RESTRICTED

# RESTRICTED

Washington Embassy is best placed to optimise the deployment of resources in US posts in order to pursue the full range of HMG's objectives. (It is also of course true as a general proposition that it would be unhealthy to concentrate so heavily on MacBride - increasingly important though it is - that we run the risk of neglecting opportunities to score points in other fields. The Ambassador's letter of 26 June noted in this connection that MacBride could not be described as a national issue.)

6. Against this background it does not seem opportune to press the FCO further at this stage in respect of Miss McIver's role. The SIL view is that we should reserve our position: thanking the FCO for what they have done; noting that - stimulated in part by Sir Antony Acland's letter - we are reviewing our whole MacBride policy; and saying that we will be keeping the whole situation from now on under close scrutiny. The Minister will of course be well placed to make a first hand assessment of the efficacy of the new arrangements during his visit to the USA planned for the autumn.

7. The Minister may wish to take these points into account in any note he sends to Dr Mawhinney. I accordingly attach for consideration a slightly revised version of Mr Mayne's draft. Alternatively, the Minister may feel that the issue could be dealt with through an informal word with his colleague, drawing on the points in the draft.

*Stephen J. Leach*

S J LEACH  
SIL Division

22 July 1987

T1817.

# RESTRICTED

**DRAFT MINUTE/LETTER TO DR MANHIMNEY FOR MINISTER'S CONSIDERATION**

1. I have seen the minute of 6 July from your Private Secretary to PS/Secretary of State setting out your views as a result of your visit to New York and Boston in late April. I would support the main conclusions and recommendations set out in the two final paragraphs of that minute but I would like to comment <sup>on</sup> the references earlier (bottom of page 3 and 4) which suggest change in the thrust of the work of Miss McIver, particularly as regards input to the MacBride campaign.
2. You will be aware of the importance which I attach to Government's efforts to oppose MacBride since success for that campaign poses a serious threat to increasing - and indeed maintaining - US investment in Northern Ireland. Although I recognise that Miss McIver is attached to BIS and has a wider remit than simply countering MacBride, the reality is that most of her time hitherto has been spent on this issue - and to good effect. Miss McIver has an immediately identifiable Northern Ireland background and has worked as a Careers Officer with young people of both communities; she has built up considerable knowledge of the MacBride arguments and issues and has acquired expertise in identifying and approaching suitable contacts; and her personal qualities of enthusiasm and persuasiveness are valuable in our counter-MacBride effort. You will therefore appreciate that I am concerned at the possibility that her input on MacBride may be reduced following the posting of an additional officer (Mr Henderson) to the Consulate. The

Henderson posting is in recognition of the need for additional effort on MacBride and was not primarily designed to enable Miss McIver to broaden the coverage of her work (and therefore inevitably dilute her MacBride effort), though I appreciate that there may be arguments for this. The need for sustained effort on MacBride is underlined by the intention to make an even stronger bid in this area over coming months. (Insofar as the new arrangements will give Miss McIver more freedom to travel in support of other US posts, while continuing to give as much time as is necessary to MacBride issues, that would of course be welcome.)

3. Since your visit to the USA, I understand that the FCO has clarified the position somewhat. It is their hope that following Mr Henderson's arrival Miss McIver will be able to broaden her activities to cover a wider range of Northern Ireland topics of interest to the US media (still of course including MacBride). It is also hoped that she may be able to travel rather more widely. At the same time the FCO has made a helpful concession on Mr Henderson's own remit: whereas we at one time feared that he might be confined to the New York consular district, it has now been confirmed that he will be regarded as a USA-wide resource on MacBride to be tapped by the Embassy and Consuls General as necessary.

4. For the time being therefore I am reserving my position on the efficacy of the new arrangements for countering MacBride. These are supported by the Ambassador and I obviously have respect for his judgement. <sup>However,</sup> I hope to be able to make a first

hand assessment of the position during my visit to the USA  
planned for the autumn. With that proviso, I endorse the views  
you express in the 6 July minute.

PETER VIGGERS

T1823.