

Rw 88/11

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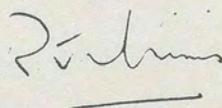
Mrs E Ferris

SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MR CHARLES DOUGHERTY AND OTHER US BUSINESSMEN ON
17 NOVEMBER

While the MacBride campaign is not the object of the above meeting the Secretary may wish to be updated on the current state of play both generally and in particular on the Pennsylvania legislation. I therefore attach briefing for this purpose.

As no doubt the Secretary will be aware Mr Dougherty is former State Senator and US Congressman (R) who has a track record as an effective and popular legislator, close association with John Hume and exemplary Catholic credentials, and has lent considerable support to our opposition to the MacBride campaign. He is held in high regard by the FCO.

We have asked the Embassy to keep us closely informed on events in Pennsylvania and will keep the Secretary advised.



R J MINNIS
10 November 1988

cc Mr Wilson

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MacBRIDE PRINCIPLES: PENNSYLVANIA

Five similar Bills in respect of different State bodies have passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and have joined five identical Senate Bills in the care of the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee Senator Gibb Armstrong. Senator Armstrong has managed to sit on the Senate Bills for well over a year but has come under increasing pressure to move the Bills since the passage of their House equivalents in July. He has been under no pressure from the Republican leadership and has been fairly confident about holding the line, but if the pressure becomes too strong he intends to refer the Bills to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee who is even more strongly against them.

The legislature is in recess but is expected to come back into session for three days from 14-16 November and perhaps three days in the following week. There is still a possibility of mischief making before all unenacted legislation dies on 30 November. The House sponsor, Tom Murphy, may try to amend MacBride language into other unrelated legislation that has passed the Senate and is on the way to the House. One further complication is that the Senate sponsor is terminally ill and there have been suggestions that the passage of the MacBride Bill could be regarded as a tribute to him.

The Bills require the relevant Commissioner or Board to monitor the employment practices of US companies in Northern Ireland, and that State investments reflect the advances made by these companies in eliminating discrimination, using the MacBride Principles (listed but not named as such) as a guide. Amendments have been inserted in two of the Bills to include references to South Africa but they could be amended out again by the Senate despite strong opposition from the Black Caucus. With the South Africa references included the Bills make no sense, (they refer to the minority) but Representative Murphy is examining ways of having them deleted.

John Cushnahan and Jim Eccles will be lobbying in the US in week commencing 14 November and it is intended that they will include Harrisburg in their itinerary. MacBride proponents including Oliver Kearney (FET), Bernadette McAliskey and Joseph Roche (AOH-US) have been engaged in active lobbying in Pennsylvania over the past months.

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MacBRIDE CAMPAIGN: CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

1. So far the MacBride lobby has failed to persuade any US company to adopt the MacBride Principles. On the other hand, MacBride-related legislation has been passed in 10 States - Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York. Likewise some cities eg Cleveland, Detroit, Hartford, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Rochester, St Paul, and Wilmington (Delaware), have similar legislation or resolutions.
2. The MacBride campaign also continues in Ohio where the position has yet to be resolved and in Pennsylvania where Bills have passed the House and are now before the Senate. Strenuous efforts are being made by our Consulates-General, by lobbyists and by witnesses from Northern Ireland to defeat the legislation. A Bill in Congress (the D'Amato/Fish Bill) is currently stalled. A Bill has also been introduced in the District of Columbia. MacBride proponents are believed to be active in other States including Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin and legislation is likely to emerge in at least some of these States in 1989 and to emerge again in those States where legislation has failed to pass ie California, Maryland, New Hampshire and Vermont.
3. During the Presidential election campaign President-elect Bush commented that although the MacBride Principles were not objectionable in themselves he did not believe that they would improve the long-term economic outlook of Ireland which should be the priority for everyone. (Governor Dukakis was the first Governor to sign the MacBride Principles into law.)
4. The Boston Globe (6 November 1988) has reported that during his recent visit to the US "Bishop Daly said he could support his Protestant colleagues warning that misuse of the MacBride Principles, which call for fair employment standards in Northern Ireland, could destroy existing industry. An end to discrimination will not come over-night, he said and 'nationalists would accept investment into existing industry, providing there is a reasonable mechanism to provide redress ... for disproportions in employment'".