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Mr J Dew RID FCO - M

Mr Leach

2. P.M.W.

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES: TAOISEACH'S COMMENTS

I spoke to Mr O hUiginn yesterday about the Taoiseach's interview for the magazine Irish America using the speaking notes in you minute to me of 2 September.

2. Mr O hUiginn made the usual points. He stressed the difficulty for any Irish politician of opposing the MacBride principles per se and the importance of avoiding a head-on attack against the campaign. (Incidentally he claimed that the Taoiseach actually used the word "unexceptional" rather than "acceptable" though he admitted that the difference in meaning was small). He also said, rather weakly, that the comments about John Hume had been the result of a very awkward and provocative question. Despite all of this, he seemed to accept that the Taoiseach's remarks were not particularly helpful and he agreed to record our view that they are likely to encourage the MacBride lobby and to make more difficult the prevention of the enactment of MacBride statutes.

3. I floated the idea of a further meeting of officials on this topic aimed at securing agreement on a more constructive press line which could be used by both sides. He did not object and would, I believe, be willing to listen to any points we want to make. Subsequently, it occurred to me that a better approach might be to submit to the Irish side a short paper summarising our position and suggesting how the Irish could help us when responding to further press enquiries about MacBride. After

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all, the Irish have made frequent representations to us about what our Ministers should or should not be saying. Any such paper might reproduce paragraph 4 of the Joint record of the last Conference meeting.

4. During discussion, Mr O hUiginn and I noted that MacBride was bound to crop up during the Secretary of State's impending visit to the States. Since Mr Lenihan is likely to be in North America at about the same time and since we obviously want to avoid a damaging public row based on different interpretations of MacBride/equal opportunities/inward investment, any further steps we want to take would as well be taken quickly. I should be grateful for advice.

S Hewitt

S G HEWITT

4 September 1987

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E.M.

2/6

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DESK BY 359  
1500 hrs

Mr S Hewitt - N



cc: PS/PUS (B&L) - M 2/9  
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Mr Mood - M  
Mr J Dew, RID, PCO

② VIL SE POL 11/2

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLE: TAOISEACH'S COMMENTS

1. You will probably have seen the account in the Irish Press of 28 August of Mr Haughey's interview with Irish-America magazine (attached at A). Fuller details of the interview are given in the BIS telegram of 26 August (at B).
2. What Mr Haughey says about the MacBride Principles is clearly most unhelpful to us and represents a considerable step back from the position the Irish have taken in the Conference, where they have agreed that the best way towards employment equality lies through decisive action on the ground in Northern Ireland and have welcomed as progress the Government's legislative proposals in this area. Indeed, after the last meeting of the Conference Mr Lenihan went so far as to say that he thought the proposed new legislation could "supersede" the MacBride Principles. (He also used the word "subsume", which is of course not accurate: the new statute will underline the irrelevance of the Principles rather than incorporating them.)
3. I have discussed the next steps with Mr Burns, Mr Chesterton and DED. We feel that it is important to register our dismay at this interview with the Irish before too much time has elapsed. The best tactic would probably be to adopt a "more

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"in sorrow than in anger" approach. Clearly, the Irish cannot be expected to disavow what the Taoiseach has said, but we must at least get them to recognise that his comments have done a major disservice to our anti-MacBride effort in the US. (They also incidentally place John Hume in a rather difficult position.) Our aim should be to create a sense of obligation on their part - a recognition that they owe us one on MacBride - which we can capitalise on at a later stage.

4. Against this background, we should be grateful if you could take the matter up with your Irish colleagues. You may wish to draw on the following points:

- (i) We were surprised at the story in the Irish Press, but assumed that Mr Haughey had perhaps been misquoted. However, subsequent reporting by our posts in the US appears to confirm the Irish Press account of Mr Haughey's comments.
- (ii) What has been said will clearly encourage the MacBride lobby and make more difficult our efforts (which are of course supported among others by the US administration) to prevent the enactment of MacBride statutes. It is hard to square the Taoiseach's comments with the position which Irish Ministers have taken in the Conference - where it has been accepted that HMG is fully committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity and fair employment, that the best way to achieve this is through practical measures on the ground, and that our proposed legislation can be welcomed as possibly "superseding" MacBride. We of course appreciate that the Irish Government has consistently taken the position that the MacBride Principles are in themselves unobjectionable, but that is rather different from saying that they are "totally acceptable".

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(iii) In his interview Mr Haughey suggests that John Hume is concerned that some of the people supporting the MacBride Principles might seek to inhibit investment in Northern Ireland, whereas he would be very anxious to have as much US investment as possible there. This is very much also the concern of the British Government, which we assume is also shared by the Irish. Mr Haughey's comments do not seem consistent with the mutuality of effort in this direction which both sides have been seeking to develop within the framework of the Agreement. We should be grateful therefore for some clarification of the Irish position and for the opportunity to discuss with you in greater detail how to synthesize those areas of our respective attitudes to MacBride where we are in agreement and where we can build towards a constructive public position.

*Stephen J. Leach*

S. J. LEACH  
EIL Division

2 September 1987

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**WELCOME HOME . . .** Heather Sinclair is kissed by her mother, Ella, at Aldergrove Airport, Belfast, yesterday.

## Kidnap victim back to cheers

**PADDY REYNOLDS**

AFTER her six-week hiding under the hands of the Southern People's Army, Heather Sinclair, the 25-year-old Tipperary nurse, arrived home yesterday in Belfast.

Clapping a dappled and with a radiant smile, the one met at Belfast airport by her parents, Ella and Kevin Sinclair, who hugged and kissed her.

Heather had been released by her captors in Kenya last Tuesday, and yesterday she gave her third news conference in 24 hours.

"It's lovely to be back home and to hear Irish accents again," she said. "For the moment, home and safety once more than that she could not see her parents again. What pulled her through, she added, was her faith in God. Her captors treated her well and were "very kind."

## Haughey backs MacBride code

THE MacBride principles were the North and supported the totally acceptable in the Irish MacBride principles. On the Government and whatever differences between his position and that of SDLP leader John Hume, he called for a united front.

"What John Hume would be concerned about would be that some of the people supporting the MacBride principles might seek to inhibit investment in Northern Ireland, and he would be very anxious to have as much American investment as possible here," he said.

Then asked about reported MI5 bugging and "dirty tricks" in the last election campaign, Mr. Haughey said: "Well, I'm not going to comment on that, but there are revelations these days which show that conspiracy theories are not always unfounded."

Mr. Haughey told "Irish America Magazine" that his Government was deeply concerned about discrimination in

doubt murder was a draconian and cowardly act and the Government could not wash its hands of responsibility. The Anglo-Irish Agreement had "stated the lines of terrorism."

Mr. Alex Agnew of the SDLP and the IRA had an positive role to play in Irish life while Alliance Party leader Mr. John Hume called for full public support for the RUC. The latter were described by Mr. Cyril Walker, Ulster Unionist MP as "pro-chaplaincy areas."

Mr. Seamus Lynch of the Workers' Party argued the IRA's actions in Derry and Londonderry.

Last night the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bertie Ahern, said in a statement that he deplored the murders by the IRA and of Michael Power by the UVF, and extended sympathy to their families.

the Anglo-Irish deal has now been approved.

Mr. Charles Street, the chairman announced in Belfast yesterday that £1m is to be spent over the next ten years on seven programmes.

Most of the money for the fund has been donated by America with smaller sums contributed by Canada and New Zealand. It is estimated that three-quarters will go towards economic and social projects in the North and the rest mainly to Border areas in the Republic.

Mr. Street told THE BRITISH PRESS yesterday that loyalist opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement did not seem to be reflected in the £1m application for aid under the scheme.

"As far as we are concerned," said Mr. Street, "they don't ask the politics or religion of applicants. All the evidence that we have, however, would indicate that applicants



Miss May Tuckaberry, widow of the late Patrick Tuckaberry, being comforted by daughter Lorraine and her neighbour A. Winnie Mulcahy right after the funeral Mass at St. Brigid's Church, Coalcock, yesterday.

Photo: NIALL

## Clinic heart op man is 'critical'

ONE CONNELL'S male heart transplant recipient still critical in St. Luke's Hospital last night, who he and his team underwent the operation on Friday in the Liverpool Clinic, a private unit.

The name of the man, Mr. Ursula Sheridan, 39, described as a widower, the first of a boy and girl, he said that the operation was made critical for some time. The man is reported to be a "good risk" in these circumstances.

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NORTHERN IRELAND: MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES: IRISH ATTITUDE.

IN AN INTERVIEW FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF IRISH-AMERICA MAGAZINE MR HAUGHEY, IRISH PRIME MINISTER, SAID QUOTE WE FIND THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES TOTALLY ACCEPTABLE. WE UNDERSTAND FULLY THE ANXIETIES OF IRISH-AMERICANS ABOUT DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND WE ARE ALSO DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT. WE ARE DOING WHAT WE CAN THROUGH ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS TO TRY TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION UNQUOTE.

IN RESPONSE TO A SUGGESTION THAT THE IRISH DIPLOMATIC CORPS WERE AS WORKING AGAINST MACBRIDE SUPPORTERS, MR HAUGHEY REPLIED QUOTE DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST BUT CERTAINLY THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAVE NO AUTHORITY OR BRIEF TO INTERFERE IN MY WAY. THIS GOVERNMENT FINDS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UNQUOTE. REFERRING TO JOHN HUME'S POSITION HE WENT ON TO SAY QUOTE WELL, IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT IRISH PEOPLE ARE ARGUING AND FIGHTING AT HOME, WE SHOULD TRY TO PRESENT AS UNITED FRONT AS POSSIBLE ABROAD. THE SDLP HAS DIFFERENT ROOTS. WHAT JOHN HUME WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT WOULD BE THAT SOME OF THE PEOPLE SUPPORTING THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES MIGHT SEEK TO INHIBIT INVESTMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND HE WOULD BE VERY ANXIOUS TO AVOID AS MUCH AMERICAN INVESTMENT AS POSSIBLE THERE. I'M SURE THAT WOULD BE HIS CONCERN UNQUOTE.

Copies of the full interview will follow by bag. Other subjects covered were the current high level of Irish emigration to the US and the proposed Kennedy-Donnelly legislation; Ireland's economic problems and its negative image in the US press as a third world nation; the Anglo-Irish Agreement. On the latter, Mr Haughey said he intended quote to use the Anglo-Irish Agreement to do everything we can to improve the position of those living in Northern Ireland, particularly the position of the Nationalist community and eliminate those things which place them at a disadvantage such as discrimination in employment, and their

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GRIEVANCES OVER POLICING, THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE UNQUOTE.

3. IRISH-AMERICA IS A NATIONAL ETHNIC GLOSSY WHICH WAS STARTED IN  
LATE 1985. ITS CO-OWNERS ARE THE SMURFIT GROUP AND NIALL O'DOWD  
WHO IS KNOWN TO BE A HAUGHEY FAN. ITS SUBSCRIPTION CIRCULATION IS  
BELIEVED TO BE 30,000 AND IT WILL GO ON THE NEWS STANDS NEXT MONTH.

SNEKEL.

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