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FROM: I M BURNS, DUS(L)
9 June 1989

S395/88
and
A919/89

826/6/89

cc: Mr Gowdy (DED) - M
Mr Minnis (DED, A. Centre) - M
Mr Blackwell - B
Mr Donnelly - B
Mr Cornick

Please Mufar

Mr Campussan
Mrs Byrne
Mrs Duncan
PL (FE Bill Publicity)
+ Mac Bride file

MR THOMAS - B

copy to: Alan Brown
Ms McAuliffe

13/6

SELLING THE FAIR EMPLOYMENT ACT IN THE UNITED STATES

I have separately minuted you about the general question of selling our fair employment legislation in the United States; this minute records a couple of points that were raised with me in that context by Paul Quinn of the Washington based Committee for a New Ireland.

2. Quinn offered the view (independently arrived at by numerous colleagues in the Embassy) that we should use the Fair Employment Act, when enacted, to go on the offensive on MacBride. We should use the theme that with fair employment legislation now securely in place, what Northern Ireland needs is jobs for those that haven't got them. He would like to see a hard hitting comparison showing what the Act does, as compared with what the MacBride proposals merely talk about.

3. On specifics, he offered the suggestion that Senator Kennedy, possibly with others, should be encouraged to write a letter to colleagues in Congress setting out the value of the new legislation and the need to promote actual jobs. I must admit that I was somewhat sceptical about the possibility of Senator Kennedy doing this, but the news earlier this week that Senator Moynihan has asked for briefing on the Fair Employment Bill for almost exactly this purpose makes me wonder whether the idea might be runner after all.

4. Quinn also thought we should target the AFL/CIO. When I mentioned that Donohue was, I believe, an acquaintance of the Secretary of State's, he urged that Mr King should be recommended to write to Donohue extolling the virtues of the Bill. We should also try to find some way of addressing the business community and telling them that the Act is not just a political holding operation, but a means of solving the problem which MacBride keeps raising.

SIGNED:

I M BURNS
9 June 1989
OAB 6447
DUSL/KR/10111

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