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British Consulate-General
Boston

Re ce. with copy of
Joe Hendron's
letter (below) to

25th Floor, Federal Reserve Plaza
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston MA. 02210

Georgie Campbell

Telephone: (617) 248-9555
Facsimile: (617) 248-9578

~~DE~~ Belfast,

11 October 1994

BY FAX
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RU 10

Ms Pamela Mitchison
British Embassy
Washington



Dear Pamela,

MASSACHUSETTS MACBRIDE BILL

1. Please refer to my letter of 7 October.

1. On Friday 7 October at my party for Dr Joe Hendron and the Belfast economic delegation, Mark Stein said that Governor Weld had asked for a ten-day extension until 21 October. I told him that I had heard that the Governor may sign the Bill. He replied that this was tactical. Weld was giving the MacBride lobby an indication that he may sign the Bill as it stands so that they will be inclined to grant him a ten-day extension. If the Legislature agree this will give Weld time to increase his votes whilst at the same time giving the MacBride lobby less time to stir up political difficulties for him. Stein still believes that Weld will return an amended Bill. (We have just heard that the Legislature has agreed to Weld's request for a ten-day extension.)

2. Before he left Boston Dr Joe Hendron said that he would write a letter to Governor Weld. He wants to clear the letter with John Hume first before faxing it to me for delivery to Governor Weld.

John Owen

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1994 10:29

BRITISH CONSULATE

617 248 9578 P.002



British Consulate-General
Boston

25th Floor, Federal Reserve Plaza
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston MA. 02210

Telephone: (617) 248-9555
Facsimile: (617) 248-9578

12 October 1994

Mr Mark Stein
Executive Director
Massachusetts Office of International Trade
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1302
Boston
Massachusetts 02202

Dear Mark,

Many thanks for lunch yesterday. It was a good opportunity to go through a number of issues connected with Governor Weld's forthcoming visit to Belfast and London. Don Farr will follow up with Pam to confirm the appointments etc.

In the meantime I enclose a copy of a letter which Dr Joe Hendron has written to Governor Weld. I should be grateful if you would warn his staff that the letter is being sent direct to him through the open post. You may in any case want to pass them a copy.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely
John Owen

John Owen
HM Consul-General



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Twin Spires Centre
155 Northumberland Street
Belfast BT13 2JF

Tel. 0232 314422
Fax. 0232 314477

Governor William Weld
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston
MA 02133

October 10, 1994

Dear Governor Weld

I have just returned from Boston where I have been leading a bi-partisan mission (both nationalist and unionist politicians as well as central/local government and government/community) to promote private-sector investment in Belfast and Northern Ireland. One of my colleagues on the mission was Councillor Reg Empey (Ulster Unionist), twice Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast. I am a representative of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), whose leader is John Hume.

Our mission to Boston and other major US cities has been very successful and we have been gratified at the interest shown by US investors in the potential of Belfast as a location for US investment into the European Union. As you are aware, Northern Ireland is in the news for the most positive reason possible—that violence has ceased there; we wish that peace and economic prosperity can now become a reality.

I know of your interest in Irish affairs generally and I know that you would wish to do all that you can to assist the peace process and economic reconstruction through investment which can be mutually profitable for both the US and Northern Ireland. As such, I wish to briefly mention two matters to you:

1. I understand from Mark B. Stein, your acting Executive Director of the Office of International Trade and Investment, that you will be leading a mission in Northern Ireland. I would like to extend an invitation to you to come to the offices of Phoenix West Belfast Development Trust (of which I am a director) and to meet some of the people involved in the projects which are helping the process of economic reconstruction. You and your party will be made most welcome.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

2. I also understand that you have on your desk a bill from the Massachusetts legislature concerning the MacBride Principles. I appreciate your gubernatorial prerogatives in this matter and hope that you will not think that any remarks on MacBride by me are other than advisory or in any sense infringing on your prerogatives. My view on MacBride is that at this time, and particularly in the recently-transformed political climate, American investors should not face additional barriers to investment in Northern Ireland, particularly compliance with a set of Principles which do not have any effect in statute law. My constituency, and Belfast and Northern Ireland generally, needs jobs, not another barrier to investment. While the good faith of the majority of Irish Americans who support MacBride is unquestioned, the rhetoric of its supporters in Northern Ireland is often one of disinvestment. MacBride is supported in Northern Ireland only by Sinn Fein, which commands 10% electoral support in Northern Ireland and less than 5% in Ireland as a whole. People such as John Hume have declared their opposition to MacBride for reasons similar to mine.

The past twenty five years of civil strife here has meant that there has been job loss rather than job growth. There is a very serious imbalance in employment participation between the two communities. In order to remedy that, we need additional jobs which can be distributed equitably. The existing fair employment legislation in Northern Ireland has enabled considerable progress to be made and is being considered for review; the key problem is that, in the hard-pressed areas such as West Belfast, there are simply not enough jobs to go round.

In conclusion, may I thank you as the representative of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the hospitality, warmth and friendship extended to us in the beautiful city of Boston and may I send you personally our best wishes on behalf of the city of Belfast. May I repeat my invitation to you to come to see us and say how much I look forward to meeting you in Belfast.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Joe Hendron
Member of Parliament for West Belfast (SDLP)



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7 October 1994

Ms Pamela Mitchison
British Embassy
Washington

Dear Pamela,

MASSACHUSETTS MACBRIDE BILL

1. This is to confirm our conversation this morning about MacBride.
2. Yesterday Mark Stein of the Massachusetts Office of International Trade told me that Governor Weld would return the MacBride Bill, with amendments linking it to the Fair Employment Act. However, Terri Evans has just heard from Weld's legislative aide that the Governor may sign the Bill as it stands.
3. I have just telephoned John Moffitt, the Governor's political adviser, whom I have briefed in the past on MacBride. He told me that he met the Governor at his house on Tuesday evening. One of the subjects raised was the MacBride Bill. Moffitt told me that the Governor was in a quandary. The circumstances are different now to what they were when the Governor effectively vetoed the Bill in December 1993. For domestic political considerations it is going to be "tough" for him to veto the Bill in an election year. It could also be counter-productive and could trigger off other issues which could have an impact on his re-election campaign. He added that the Governor was under "enormous pressure" to sign the Bill. A further difficulty is that if the Governor vetoes the Bill or passes it back with amendments which are not acceptable to the Legislature, then the Legislature would override the Governor's veto. He added that the Governor said that he would speak to me before he made a final decision.

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4. We agreed that the Governor's office is fully briefed on the issues. However, I propose asking Dr Joe Hendron MP, who is in Boston today, whether he is prepared to speak to the Governor about MacBride. If he does not wish to do so I will tell the Governor's office that I will be available to see him today or at any time over the holiday weekend. The Governor has to take a decision by 11 October.

John Owen
[Handwritten signature]

John Owen

c.c. ✓ Ms Georgina Campbell, DED, Belfast (By Fax)
Mr Peter Reid, BIS, New York (" ")

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RECEIVED
70 OCT 1994
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Chief of Staff
Director of Public Affairs
Public and Public Affairs Officer

Mr Peter Reid, BIS New York
Ms Georgina Campbell, DED Belfast