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17 Grosvenor Place,  
S.W.1.

/ November, 1968.

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Secretary,

As you are aware, the Taoiseach called, by appointment, on Prime Minister Wilson in the latter's room in the House of Commons at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, the 30th October, following his call on Mr. Michael Stewart, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, at 5.30 p.m. on the same day. The Taoiseach saw Mr. Wilson privately - no officials being present -, and these private discussions terminated at 6.55 p.m. Mr. Wilson then invited his Private Secretary, Mr. D.H. Andrews, and myself to join the Taoiseach and himself in his room. Mr. Wilson, with the agreement of the Taoiseach, suggested that, whilst there would be no question of a detailed report of the discussion which had taken place, it might be useful for both sides to have a brief summary record of certain of the points discussed. He asked both Mr. Andrews and myself to record the following:

The Taoiseach expressed the views of the Irish Government on recent events in Northern Ireland, and in particular in Derry. All the matters discussed between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach would be further discussed by the Prime Minister when he met the Northern Ireland Prime Minister in London on Monday, the 4th November. Whilst, in Mr. Wilson's view, the matters referred to were within the jurisdiction of Northern  
/Ireland,

H.J. McCann, Esq.,  
Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs.



- 2 -

Ireland, they were, nevertheless, a matter of concern to the British Government. The Taoiseach pointed out that the basic cause of the situation in Northern Ireland was Partition. Mr. Wilson dissented from this view and expressed the opinion that "banging of the drum" would only make conditions worse than they were and would be of little help to the Taoiseach's co-religionists, whose problems in Northern Ireland were recognised by him (Mr. Wilson).

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister also discussed all matters of interest to the economies of both countries, including the applications for membership of the EEC and, in particular, the question of the exports to Britain of Irish dairy produce, in particular cheese, which had recently been under discussion at official level.

The Prime Minister also referred to the security arrangements to protect the British Ambassador in Dublin, which had been mentioned earlier that day to the Taoiseach by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The Taoiseach had informed Mr. Stewart that he would look into the question. The Taoiseach stressed that, in his view, the basic problem of conditions in Northern Ireland was Partition and stressed that it was essential that something should be done to improve existing conditions.

In the discussion during the time Mr. Andrews and myself were present, Mr. Wilson said that Mrs. Barbara Castle,

/Secretary



- 3 -

Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity, would be extremely interested in measures which the Taoiseach mentioned were under contemplation by our Department of Labour in the field of wages and incomes policy; he was sure that Mrs. Castle would welcome a visit from our Minister for Labour to be made aware of our Government's thinking in the matter. I mentioned that the Embassy had recently been requested to approach the Ministry of Employment and Productivity with a view to having discussions at official level on matters pertaining to wages, labour relations etc. and that we were awaiting the reaction of the Ministry of Employment and Productivity to this approach.

Yours sincerely,

(J.G. MOLLOY)  
Ambassador