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Title: Letter from Mr. Kevin Rush, Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Ireland to Great Britain, to Mr Denis Holmes, Counsellor, Department of External Affairs, regarding a forthcoming meeting with two Labour MPs, Kevin McNamara and John Ryan.

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AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

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URGENT AND CONFIDENTIALOur Policy on UDR

November 26 1969

Dear Denis

Arising out of debates in the House of Commons during the past few days, Mr John Ryan, Labour M.P. has telephoned me to say that - in preparation for the Committee Stage of the Ulster Defence Regiment Bill, now expected to take place on Monday, 1st December, he would like to come here for a chat with me as to our views about it. Mr Kevin McNamara, another Labour M.P. who has been prominent in this context, would accompany Mr Ryan, the latter mentioned.

My colleagues, Messrs Howard and Feehan have, of course, been running into these two, and other Labour M.Ps identified with the CDU movement, in recent weeks in the Irish Club, the House of Commons bar etc.

However, it has not been the practice, I understand, for the Embassy to receive such people here for full briefings. Nevertheless (subject to any views the Ambassador may have on this, and I hope to check with him this afternoon), I think that, on balance, it would be advantageous if I were to receive Mr Ryan and Mr McNamara, as proposed, here at the Embassy next Monday afternoon. (I did suggest meeting them for lunch at some restaurant, but Mr Ryan said they would not be free then).

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I hinted to Mr Ryan that, since there had been no public pronouncement whatsoever from Dublin on this UDR development, so far as I could discover, I suspected that we would prefer to remain silent about it at the present stage, or, if we felt obliged to discuss it at all, that we would have to make the obvious point that the creation of any British armed force for use in Ireland could only be regarded by us as "utterly repugnant" (even apart from the "disguised B Specials" aspect). He said he could quite appreciate that point, but he wondered whether any suggestion he might come up with on the lines of a joint force to patrol both sides of the Border, and deal with ~~Extremists~~ extremists from both camps, might possibly be less objectionable from our point of view. I indicated that I would have to think about that suggestion.

He went on to say that he and Mr McNamara would like to receive from me, in particular, some material on the economic aspects of Partition as it stands today, e.g., our attitude towards the cost of Dublin's taking over the heavy imperial liabilities for Stormont, social services etc. I undertook to prepare some data along those lines for his visit next Monday.

Could you, therefore, please let me have very quickly, i.e. by Monday morning at latest

- (a) an indication of our attitude - if any - towards UDR;
- (b) suggestions as to sources of material on the economic aspect (other than the Taoiseach's article last September in the "Director" Magazine);

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(c) any other points you would like me to convey
to Messrs Ryan and McNamara.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Rush

Mr Denis Holmes
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