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Title: Letter from CC Cremin, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, to a Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs regarding his meeting on 14 July 1971 with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, at which the possibility of appointing a personality to look into the problem of human rights in Northern Ireland was discussed.

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PSM
Auth. Comm. will be here next week. The Minister may wish to discuss with him.

20 JUL 1971

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JS
21/7/71

16th July, 1971

HM

Confidential

Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin

Secretary-General and North

When I called on the Secretary-General on 14th inst., he enquired (as usual) about the situation in the North. I gave him an account of recent developments and said that the outlook is quite troubled. He expressed his concern and reiterated his desire to do anything he possibly could to improve matters. He wondered whether he might not explore again the idea he had two years ago of trying to have a personality appointed to look into the problem of human rights. Such a step might, he said, prevent the situation from deteriorating further. The then British Government were opposed to the suggestion and he did not know whether the present Government would take a similar position. His suggestion was naturally without commitment on his part, but he would like me to discuss it with the Minister when I am home.

2. I thanked the Secretary-General for the suggestion. Naturally (I went on) I could not say what line the present British Government would take but, although my impression is that Mr. Heath, Sir Alec Douglas-Home and Mr. Maudling are firmly committed to the same general

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approach on the North as were Mr. Wilson and his colleagues, I thought that for many reasons, including their traditional alliance with the Unionists, ^{they might} be as reluctant as their predecessors to accept a United Nations presence. I would naturally, I assured U Thant, discuss the matter in Dublin and report to him.

3. I should say that on this occasion (as in August 1969) the Secretary-General mentioned as suitable personalities Mr. Lester Pearson and Mr. Earl Warren. He did not, however, mention Dr. Bunche, who he felt two years ago would be suitable. In fact Dr. Bunche, as you know, has been quite ill and the Secretary-General told me he thinks it is impossible that he (Bunche) will return to work - much to U Thant's regret.

C. C. Connors

Permanent Representative

CCC:md