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PERMANENT MISSION OF
IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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885 SECOND AVENUE, 19TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

24th March, 1977

Confidential

Handwritten list:
Mr. O'Connell
Mr. Hamilton
Mr. Healy
Mr. Hanley
To see page 1/4

Dear Assistant Secretary,

As reported in our telex messages Nos. C37 and C39,
I arranged with the Secretary-General's office for Mr. John
Hume to call on the Secretary-General on the morning of Friday,
18th March, and I now enclose a report on their conversation for
your information. I thought the visit was well worth-while and
that Mr. Hume expressed the point of view and the aspirations
of the minority in the North with considerable effectiveness and
clarity.

Yours sincerely,

Signature: Seamus Kennedy
Permanent Representative

Mr. Sean Donlon
Assistant Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin

Enc.

cc. PSM
PSS
Mr. Donn
Mr. Swift ✓
30/3.

VISIT OF MR. JOHN HUME (SDLP) TO SECRETARY-
GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM ON 13th MARCH, 1977.

At the request of the Consulate General and with the approval of the Department I arranged a call by Mr. Hume on the Secretary-General on the morning of Friday, 18th March at 10a.m. in Dr. Waldheim's office at United Nations Headquarters. I accompanied Mr. Hume and the Secretary-General was attended by his Special Assistant Mr. Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel (a young Austrian nominee of the Secretary-General's). The visit lasted about 25 minutes.

2. The Secretary-General began the conversation by expressing his satisfaction at the speech in the General Assembly Hall on the previous evening of President Carter. He said that it represented a new chapter of cooperation between Washington and the United Nations. Relations had deteriorated under U Thant because of Vietnam, but now Mr. Carter was obviously developing new and positive United Nations policies which were very encouraging and which showed that he wished to work within the United Nations framework.

3. I then introduced Mr. Hume, explaining his role in the politics of Northern Ireland and mentioning that he is the holder of an Irish Passport. I recalled that he had the rank of Minister of Commerce in the short-lived power-sharing Executive in the early months of 1974, which had been so tragically ended by the strike in May of that year. The Secretary-General expressed his concern at the continuation of violence in the North and inquired how it could be that issues of religion could still divide people so bitterly in the last quarter of

the 20th Century. (I should mention in this connection that despite the number of times our Minister and myself have spoken to the Secretary-General about the North - not to mention our predecessors - I have often had the uncomfortable feeling that he really does not grasp the essentials of the situation). I had warned Mr. Hume to expect this question and he responded splendidly. He went into the social, economic and historical background of what looks on the surface like a religious conflict and, I felt, "got across" to the Secretary-General on this essential issue.

4. The Secretary-General then asked for Mr. Hume's assessment of what can be done to find a peaceful and just solution. Here the SDLP leader made the important distinction between the aspirations of the minority and the men of violence who are resented by that minority. He brought out the point that the hostility between the minority and its men of violence is greater than that between the majority and their para-militaries. He stressed the point that violence, far from aiding in the search for a solution, had made it more difficult to find one. The Peace Movement, while inspired by the most worthy motives, had no political framework and was therefore losing its momentum. Mr. Hume said that his party continued to believe that the way ahead lies in the direction of power-sharing and that the British Government must face up to its duties in this respect. They have the resources and the power to impose a just solution in the North and Mr. Hume believed that they should not be encouraged to shirk their responsibilities. They should be "leaned on" more heavily in this connection. Recalling

the power-sharing Executive in 1974, Mr. Hume made the point that violence had greatly abated then because of its success, and has revived since then because of its absence. The men of violence on both sides opposed it. I gained the impression that the Secretary-General did not seem to grasp the importance of the power-sharing experiment in 1974 or, perhaps, had forgotten about it and I thought it advisable to say a few words about it myself.

5. The Secretary-General then inquired if Mr. Hume saw a role for the United Nations in the North. (I have often had the impression, in this connection, that the Secretary-General, far from sensing the difficulties of United Nations involvement, actually seems to seek a role for the Organisation there. Perhaps, like most heads of international organisations, he wishes to follow up every opening for UN activity he can see, but his attitude might also reflect the lack of a real intellectual grasp of the situation). Mr. Hume felt that while the United Nations might very well have a role in the event of a sudden British withdrawal in separating the majority from the minority, we were not yet in a Cyprus-type situation. The Secretary-General said that he understood that the possibility of a UN role had not yet emerged and he expressed his thanks to Mr. Hume for calling on him and for giving such a clear expose of the tragic situation in the North. He said that what was happening in the North was a source of deep concern to the United Nations and to all who seek a peaceful solution in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter.

6. Before leaving, Mr. Hume drew the Secretary-General's attention to the joint St. Patrick's Day appeal for peace in Northern Ireland

igned by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Speaker Thomas P O'Neill, and Governor Hugh L. Carey. I have since sent the Secretary-General the text of this appeal, together with the text of the joint statement issued by our Minister and United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Washington on 17th March. The Secretary-General's office has since acknowledged their receipt with thanks and appreciation. (I have also sent these statements to the United States Ambassador Andrew Young, linking the Washington document with the earlier statement of President Carter on 28th October in which he opposed violence as part of a solution to the Irish question and expressed support for negotiations and peaceful means for finding a just solution involving the two communities of Northern Ireland and which would protect human rights.)

7. On leaving the Secretary-General's office I took advantage of our conversation to mention briefly the contents of your telex No. C47 regarding Irish United Nations troop availabilities. The Secretary-General asked me to express his sincere appreciation to the Irish authorities, although, as I reported, I feel he may not be aware of the financial implications of our offer.

Eamon Kennedy

24th March, 1977

EK:md