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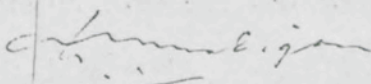
~~1. W. W. Way (on return)~~ Mentioned to research
~~2. S 21222 - bayonne file~~ L.H. Murray
~~3. S 19003 - SCLP file~~ Telephone call from Mr. John Hume
~~4. S 18654 F - Th meeting with B.A.M. file 22/5~~

Mr. John Hume telephoned on 19 May to maintain contact after his meeting with the Taoiseach on 17 May and before the Taoiseach's meeting with Mrs. Thatcher.

Mr. Hume said that he had distinct reservations about Mrs. Thatcher's approach to the Northern Ireland problem as it appeared when he saw her on 13 May. She had (as the Taoiseach had earlier indicated) shown uncommon ignorance of certain matters in Northern Ireland, e.g. the number of Government Departments in Belfast, the operation of local government which she considered to be satisfactory because Derry is harmoniously administered. In addition she showed a regrettable tendency to think and talk about the setting up of what would be in fact a majority rule administration. In Hume's view she needed to be convinced of the evil of majority rule. The history of Northern Ireland in this sense seemed to be a closed book to her and Hume considered that part of the Taoiseach's time might be well spent in putting her straight on the necessary aspects of Irish history.

Mr. Hume thought it would be important to get Mrs. Thatcher to accept first the need to discuss the three issues which the Taoiseach would be putting before her. (This is a reference to the three dimensions, i.e. Northern Ireland, North-South relations and Irish-British relations). Only when these had been accepted should there be an attempt to define the kind of machinery by which progress might be achieved or to define the type of co-operation which we would be offering. In this connection Hume expressed some surprise at the detailed information, purporting to derive from disclosures from official sources, which had appeared in the article by Michael Jones in the Sunday Times of 18 May. Hume said that he had been pursued by Jones during Thursday and Friday but had not spoken to him until Saturday when, in the course of a telephone conversation, he had given an account of his conversation with Mrs. Thatcher. Asked about Jones's article subsequently he had described it as premature speculation. I informed him that this was also the official reaction here and mentioned that there had been no official disclosure or leak by our

In conclusion Mr. Hume repeated his fears that Mrs. Thatcher may now be working on a majority rule formula which would be disastrous. Hume mentioned that he is to appear on Wednesday night in a television programme with Dr. Paisley. He undertook to make early contact with the Taoiseach after the Downing Street meeting of 21 May.



D.M. Neligan

20 May 1980