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To:

From:

CONFIDENTIAL MEMO

Hugh Logue

I met Mr. Logue last night for a drink and learned a few more details from him of the Carrigart meeting of the SDLP over the last weekend.

He confirmed that the main discussion of the Conference had been on Hume's proposal of an offer of majority rule within a federal or confederal Ireland. He said that after considerable debate, Hume's proposal was overwhelmingly supported but opposed by a minority of 4 led by Currie. There had been sharp exchanges between Hume and Currie at the meeting. For his (Logue's) part, he had been agreeably surprised at the willingness of the "greener" elements in the party (e.g. Mallon, Duffy, McGrady) to take Hume's concept on board.

Logue said that he understood that it was the intention that Hume should "offer" their proposal to Prior during or after the weekend of 3/4 October so that Prior could "run with it" vis-à-vis the other side. In reply to my query he felt that there was a good chance that the proposal would remain confidential for the moment. (Note: I must confess to being a little skeptical).

He confirmed that the feeling of most delegates was that the H-Blocks issue was now on the wane. There was considerable support for Hume's proposed attack on the H-Blocks Committee which has now been launched. It is proposed to maintain this momentum by challenging the H-Blocks Committee after each IRA/INLA outrage.

He also said that the Party now had ambitious intentions about making the Party structure and organisation more professional. Mallon in particular, perhaps because he is himself going "full-time", is behind this. The main problem is undoubtedly funds. Some thought is being given a professional fund-raising effort. Consideration is also being given to trying to raise funds in the U.S., where a somewhat half-hearted attempt failed some years ago. There is also growing awareness, not before its time in Logue's view, of the Party's failure to reach younger people, although there are as yet no firm proposals in mind to meet this problem.

M. Lillis.
22nd September, 1981.

c.c. Private Secretary to the Taoiseach, Mr. D. Neligan (DFA).

cc Burke, P.S.M.