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(28)

cc PSM

PS: Mr Nally
Joint Secretary
Counsellors AI

1. Tammach
To see please

Mr J. McCarthy
M. Kinnock

2. 4/3.

Hume is right
to be disturbed
re Molyneaux's
1st para. -

SECURE FAX

SEEN BY
AI 4/3.
IAQISEACM

URGENT

- but Hume should have
never done 5/3
agreed to let Molyneaux
send letter for the 4,
without.

To Asst. Sec. O hUiginn

From: Joe Hayes

Hume seeing
letter joint!

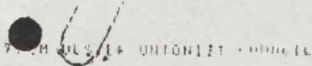
Further to my message this a.m., attached herewith are copies of Molyneaux's letter and Kinnock's reply.

I spoke to McNamara this afternoon and he told me that he had dinner with Hume last night. Hume is upset at the first paragraph of Molyneaux's letter which, he feels, goes well beyond last Friday's statement by the party leaders. According to McNamara, Hume never agreed to a letter in these terms which misrepresents the views of the SDLP. Hume is also unhappy with the middle paragraph of Kinnock's reply.

According to McNamara, Alderdice is also concerned with the text of Molyneaux's letter.

McNamara feels that Hume's concern is exaggerated. In any case, he is of the view that Thursday's NI debate will provide a useful opportunity for all sides to set the record straight. His own intervention will be very carefully drafted and will be cleared in advance with Kinnock. He has had some press queries arising from media reports of the Embassy interview hinting at a difference of approach between himself and Kinnock and asking if Labour is in retreat from its commitment to reunification. Personally, he has had no difficulty in responding to these queries, emphasising that there has been no change in Labour party policy and also making it clear that there is no way in which a Labour government would repudiate any agreement reached by the constitutional parties in Ireland.

McNamara made the point that the breakfast meeting with Kinnock also made it clear that there were no changes of emphasis in Labour party policy.



0219 3398

The Rt. Hon. James Molyneux, M.P.
LEADER - THE ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY



House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA.

2 March 1992

Rt Hon Neil Kinnock MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Neil

I am writing at the request of the other three Party Leaders Messrs Hume, Paisley and Alderdice to let you know that we have been greatly reassured by your statement at the Irish Embassy on 27 February 1992 to the effect that while the Labour Party remains committed to Irish unity in the longer term, a Labour Government in reconvened talks would not use such discussions to achieve that ultimate aim but would concentrate on political economic and civil security issues.

Assuming that you were reported correctly, we the four leaders on Friday 28 February agreed and issued the enclosed statement which in turn led to a very useful meeting with Peter Brooke this morning, described in the enclosed Press Statement.

As we have been relying on press reports of your remarks at the Embassy, the four of us would be grateful if you could confirm that your views were fairly represented. It would be particularly helpful if you could let me have a note to that effect before Thursday's debate on Northern Ireland.

*Yours ever
Jim*

22/4

U

2nd March 1992

Thank you for today's letter.

As you will know, the Labour Party has consistently supported the efforts of the Government to get talks on the future of Northern Ireland under way and we consequently welcomed and gave active support to the statement from Mr Brooke on 26th March 1991.

My comments last Thursday were the most recent reassertion of the view which we have taken in the intervening period and will maintain.

It naturally follows that if you and the other interested parties agree a framework for talks before the Election, the Labour Government would honour such an agreement, and expect everyone else to do the same.

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