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AMBASAÍD NA HÉIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

26 April 1994.

Mr. Sean O'hUiginn
Assistant Secretary
Anglo-Irish Division

Dear Assistant Secretary,

Lunch with Frank Millar, London Editor, Irish Times, 22 April 1994.

Millar made two points which are of possible interest.

1. Jim Molyneaux has told a number of people that he intends to take a seat in the House of Lords before the next general election. One of the people he has told is Jeffrey Donaldson, Hon Secretary of the UUP, who hopes to inherit Mr Molyneaux's seat. However, Millar is convinced that Molyneaux will persuade himself that he needs to stay on to safeguard the Unionists' relationship with John Major. As Chief Executive of the UUP Millar used to hear similar predictions from Molyneaux none of which were ever realised. There are rumblings in the ranks about Mr Molyneaux's leadership and talk of a "dream ticket" comprising John Taylor and David Trimble - Millar's comment on this was that at least it would be an improvement on Molyneaux's preferred successor, William Ross, whose core political philosophy is his dislike of Fenians! [Our conversation took place before the weekend news reports of the establishment of the Craigavon Society by elements in the UUP who seek a return to more robust form of Unionism]

2. Millar is strongly of the view (which he acknowledged is not held by his superiors in the Irish Times in Dublin) that John Hume is now as much part of the problem as Molyneaux and Adams. Unionist will no longer trust Mr Hume as they were prepared to in the past and would have great difficulty negotiating with him in the future. Millar claims that he has been told - but would not give his source - that Hume intends to give as MP for Foyle and that Mark Durkan would inherit the seat and the leadership of the party.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Wrafter
Press and Information Officer

cc B McMahon, Press and Joint Secretary

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