

E.R.

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*Re 27914
TP 21514*

CC: PS/SOS (B&L)-m
PS/Dr Boyson (B&L)-m
PS/PUS (B&L)-m
Mr Brennan-m
Dr Quigley
Mr Merifield
Mr Carville
Miss Elliott -m

by [signature]

PS/Mr Bloomfield

NICS NATIONALITY REGULATIONS

The Secretary of State and Dr Boyson met Mr Bloomfield, Dr Quigley and Mr Merifield this morning for a discussion of Mr Bloomfield's submission of 6 February and Mr Brennan's note of 7 February. I was also present. The Secretary of State noted the potentially damaging consequences of changing the Regulations to allow Irish citizens to enter the NICS. He agreed that these difficulties would still arise even with the more limited scheme proposed by Mr Brennan. The Secretary of State also noted that though there could be some advantage in including a change to the Regulations as part of a more general package of 'Irish identity' measures, there was no pressure from Dublin to make changes on this front.

2. Accordingly the Secretary of State authorised officials to proceed to make the new Regulations without changing the rules to enable Irish citizens to be recruited into the NICS on the same basis as citizens of Commonwealth countries.

RPC

R P CLEASBY
Private Secretary

23 April 1985

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SP