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ME/175/87/SG

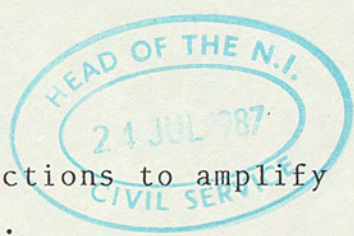
PS/SofS (L&B)

cc PS/PUS (L&B)
1. PS/Sir K Bloomfield
Mr Stephens
Mr Burns
Mr Chesterton
Mr Innes
Mr Blackwell
Mr Kirk
Mr S Hewitt
Mr J McConnell
Mr G Hewitt

✓ 27/7
2. See 3

MEASURES AGAINST SINN FEIN

Mr Lillis spoke to me again on 23 July on instructions to amplify the Irish views recorded in my minute of 22 July.



2. Mr Lillis had been instructed to convey to us the strong personal reservations of Mr Lenihan about any action of the kind which we appeared to be contemplating. He believed that it would be counterproductive and would amount to going up a cul de sac. The Irish believed that Sinn Fein would be certain to find a way round any new requirement for a declaration, or anything of that kind. They had been able to get through the business of the controversy over abstentionism in elections for the Dail, and they would find this no more difficult. The Irish Government agreed with the views expressed by Eddy McGrady, that we should devote our energies to finding ways of including people in the democratic process, not cutting them out. Action of this kind was foolish at a time when Sinn Fein was already in decline.

3. Mr Lillis repeated with some force the comment which he had made earlier to me, that any action we took would be seen as glaringly inconsistent if it did not also extend to the UDA and other loyalist organisations.

Mark Elliott

M ELLIOTT

23 July 1987

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