

E. R.

CONFIDENTIAL

cc: Mr Spence
Mr Elliott

Mr Pearson

RBS 224/B

Mr G Hewitt

CONWAY STREET MILL

I have recently explained to the Irish side of the Secretariat why we had decided not to provide further funds to the Irish Language Newspaper "La". I said that the paper was now being printed and distributed from the Conway Street Mill, which we knew to be under the control of the Provisional movement, and that Ministers were not prepared to give money to any group using these premises.

2. The Irish replied that they fully understood our policy on issues of this kind. They accepted that Ministers had to be exceptionally careful with the distribution of public money and could perfectly well understand why Government was anxious to prevent funds being siphoned off by paramilitary organisations. They did, however, wonder if there was any background information we could let them have on the current use and control of the Conway Street Mill. I said I would seek advice.

3. You have kindly agreed to consider what we might say in reply to the Irish. I should welcome your views.

S Hewitt

S G Hewitt

24 March 1986

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