

FEI Band

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Please file on F.E. publicity
~~copy to Anglo-Irish file~~

cc Mrs McAlistair
Mr Poland ✓

RM/7245/89/DR

FROM: R C MASEFIELD
27 JULY 1989

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)
PS/Minister of State (B&L)
PS/Sir K Bloomfield
Mr Fell
Mr Burns - T
Mr Gowdy
Mr Thomas
Mr Wood (B&L)
Mr Kirk
Mr Wolstencroft
Mr Blackwell

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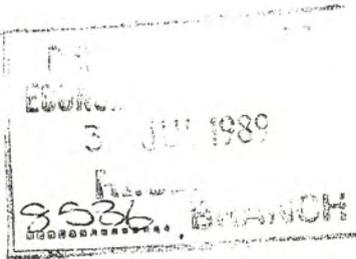
Mrs Wilson

MR Campbell

Mrs Dunne

To note file

10/8



Mr Mannis:
There are some key
phrases here which will,
I think, be very valuable
for use in the anti-
B&L context.

Jed
31/7/89

PS/Mr Needham (B&L)

FAIR EMPLOYMENT (NI) ACT 1989: STATEMENT ON 27 JULY BY THE IRISH
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

I attach a copy of the statement on the new Fair Employment
legislation put out by Mr Collins, Minister for Foreign Affairs, on
the afternoon of 27 July.

2. Although the statement stops short of a 100% endorsement of the
legislation - something which we could not have realistically
expected in any case - it does represent a positive welcome for the
measure.

(Signed)

R MASEFIELD
27 July 1989

Statement on the new Fair Employment Legislation
by Mr. Gerard Collins, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs

P.M. 27 July 1989

By Teletype to:
PS/S of S (L)
DED Press Offi

New fair employment legislation for Northern Ireland has now been adopted in the British Parliament. I welcome this as a significant step forward in the campaign to eradicate religious discrimination from the workplaces of Northern Ireland.

Despite previous attempts to tackle the problem, sectarian prejudice in employment has stubbornly persisted in Northern Ireland. Members of the nationalist community have borne the major brunt of unemployment; additionally, when employed, they have too often experienced obstacles in the way of their rightful advancement in the workplace. The new legislation is intended to put all concerned on notice that this situation could no longer be tolerated and that discriminatory practices must be brought to an end or they will incur heavy legal penalties.

Through the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the Government have contributed to the strengthening of the new legislation. We have, over a prolonged period of intensive discussions, provided detailed views and proposals on the range of issues dealt with: compulsory monitoring, prohibition of indirect discrimination, withholding of public moneys from discriminatory employers, affirmative action measures, imposition of remedies, new institutional structure.

The terms of the new legislation will not have satisfied everyone in all respects; we ourselves would have wanted - and we argued for - a strengthening of some of its aspects and the inclusion of some additional elements. Nevertheless, the legislation in our view is a serious attempt to respond to the problem and to point the way forward, and we welcome it as such.

The passage of the legislation, while the culmination of one stage, must be, more importantly, the start of an even more challenging phase of effective implementation. As the Government have repeatedly said, the real test of this legislation will be the difference it makes on the ground in Northern Ireland. Through the Intergovernmental Conference, we will be actively monitoring the implementation of the new legislation in all its aspects.

27 July 1989