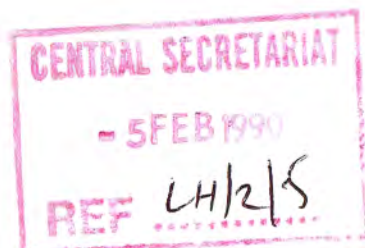


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FROM: PS/DR MAWHINNEY
31 JANUARY 1990

NOTE FOR THE RECORD



cc PS/SofS (B&L) - B
PS/MofS (B&L) - B
PS/Dr Mawhinney (B,L&DENI) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir K Bloomfield
Mr Burns - B
Mr Ledlie - B
Mr Parkes
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Spence - B
Mr A Wilson - B
Mr Miles
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr J McConnell - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Blackwell - B
Dr Donnelly - B
Mrs Hutchinson
Miss Foster, SIL - B

DR MAWHINNEY'S BREAKFAST MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN BRIAN DONNELLY,
THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 1990

- 1 Present at breakfast were the Minister, Congressmen Donnelly and Dwyer, Werner Brandt, Kevin Peterson, Tom Barker, Mr Burns, Mr J McConnell and Mrs Hutchinson.
- 2 The discussion began with a brief review of the present political situation, and the possibility of political movement based on quiet, steady debate. The introduction of the Conservative Party in Northern Ireland was also discussed as one of the more recent developments on the political scene.
- 3 The discussion moved on to the subject of the education reforms, and in particular the level of support to be given to the integrated education movement. Dr Mawhinney explained that the 85% grant for capital funding was given to both Maintained and Voluntary Grammar Schools as these types of schools had a majority grouping on their Boards of Governors - the 15% contributed by the school reflected the degree of control exercised by this group of governors. The Minister also stressed that the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) had been established as part of the

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education reforms to provide support to the Catholic Maintained sector. The procedure to be carried out for a school to change to integrated status was explained and it was stressed that compensation and arbitration arrangements were to be established for the transfer of school property.

4 Congressman Donnelly stated that the support given to the integrated education movement was perceived by many as an attack on the Roman Catholic system of education. Dr Mawhinney responded that the government was totally committed to fairness and stressed that the establishment of the CCMS signified the Government's commitment to supporting parents who choose Catholic education for their children. He also explained that after the meetings which the Secretary of State and Dr Mawhinney had had with the Northern Bishops, it had been agreed that the Bishops would accept the Government's assurances but would keep an eye on the situation. One of the Bishops, Bishop Walsh, was nominated as the contact point for any future discussions. It was also stressed that any move towards integrated education would depend completely on free parental choice. Congressman Donnelly remained concerned that the 100% capital grant which integrated schools would attract would act as a strong incentive for change to integrated status - it was stressed in response that all schools receive 100% recurrent funding, and that capital projects were not so common as to act as such an incentive as Congressman Donnelly believed.

5 Further to this, it was agreed that it would be useful in the future for any relevant media statements in the US to be picked up and copied to Dr Mawhinney for his response.

6 The discussion moved on to the issue of the administration of justice in Northern Ireland, and in particular the decision to allow the UDR access to plastic baton rounds. The basis for this decision was explained in detail to Congressman Donnelly.

7 Congressman Donnelly stressed the importance of dealing with the unfavourable perceptions of the treatment of the minority

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community, and the need to gain their confidence. The improvements in the prison system were recognised by all as important steps forward, as were the Making Belfast and Derry Work initiatives, where money was being specifically directed at perceived areas of deprivation. It was also stressed that we would have to look to retaining young people in Northern Ireland, and Dr Mawhinney stressed the importance of the new common curriculum in preparing the young people of today for the demands of the future.

8 Congressman Donnelly also mentioned that during his visit to St Patrick's Academy, he had been disturbed by the frequency and volume of helicopter noise. Dr Mawhinney undertook to investigate this and write to the Congressman on the matter. (PS/Dr Mawhinney to take forward.)

9. The meeting, which had been friendly but business-like and direct throughout, ended in a cordial atmosphere, with Congressman Donnelly saying how he was looking forward to his next meeting with Dr Mawhinney, perhaps on the other side of the Atlantic.

Signed

JUNE INGRAM
PS/Dr Mawhinney

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