

① Mr. Hughes dr  
 ② Mr Hamilton o/k  
 to see

Mr. Hamilton  
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 com: A J WHYSALL, ESL Division, NIO(L): 01-210 6572  
 August, 1989

c PS/Sofs(L&B) -M -  
 PS/Dr Mawhinney(L&B) -M -  
 PS/Sir K Bloomfield -M -  
 Mr Spence -M -  
 Mr Thomas -M -  
 Mr Wood -M -  
 Mr Blackwell -M -  
 Mr Hamilton ~~Cent Sec~~ M -  
 Mr Kirk -M -  
 Mr J McConnell -M -  
 Mr Woods -M -  
 Dr Donnelly -M -  
 Mr Percival -M -  
 Mr Margetts -M -  
 Mr Johnson, SIL -M -

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 MUFAX ROOM  
 STORMONT HOUSE ANNEX

MR BURNS

BOOK: FINAL DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS

There are some loose ends to tidy up over the distribution of the book. I suggest that in general they ought not to await Dr Mawhinney's return; some of them we discussed last week, others are a logical extension of what we were doing already, and the important thing is to get the book out quickly. I have agreed the terms of this note with the Press Office, and others involved.

1. Libraries. There was a feeling last week that all public libraries in NI should receive copies. The library service is not of course under our direct control, and I discussed with DENI whether they foresaw any difficulties. They do not; Press Office will be approaching the Chief Librarians to discuss their requirements. We shall not forget the university libraries, nor the Linenhall.

2. Libraries in GB. Mr Margetts will make sure the Lords' and Commons' libraries get copies. We ought also to send copies to the copyright libraries, for the historical record (possibly we are legally obliged to do so). And the Home Office library, which provides services to us. We could go further, and send a number of copies to each library authority in the country; but this seems unlikely to produce commensurate benefit.

3. Lords. We have sent copies to 'priority Lords' (see Annex A); but we have not attempted mass coverage, as in the Commons. It seems unlikely that a general distribution to peers would be worthwhile; but there are other Lords who take an interest in or have connections with Northern Ireland who should receive copies. The list at Annex B has been put together with the advice of Mr Margetts.

4. MEPs. Only Mr Nicholson has so far had a copy of the book in virtue of being an MEP; one or two others have them in other capacities. We are clear that the European Parliament has no role in the political affairs of Northern Ireland; since they are the main thrust of the book, it would give out the wrong signal to send all MEPs copies; besides which the average impact would probably not be very great. The logical difficulty over the Parliament's role would apply equally to any proposal to send only UK MEPs a copy. Subject to the views of Dr Mawhinney on return, MEPs are probably better left out.

R/S/11/ED

5. Other opinion formers in Northern Ireland. We now have the Permanent Secretaries' nominations. The lists are rather public-sector oriented, on the surface; but in fact they catch a number of private sector figures through their public sector sidelines. I have suggested adding John Parker and Roy McNulty, as heading the two largest manufacturing employers. If recipients have further suggestions, they can still be fed to Press Office.

6. Other opinion formers in Great Britain. Mr Kirk will send copies to appropriate people in the BIA; and recipients may have other contacts they think should receive copies. All these might be sent under cover of a simple compliments slip.

7. Recent Visitors. Press Office intend to send copies of the Book to all who have visited Northern Ireland under their auspices, or Central Secretariat's or PAB's, in recent years, avoiding duplication of lists where possible.

8. Overseas. Following the first instalment of copies last week, which went to Washington, New York, Boston and Chicago, BIS has consulted posts, and put in an order for 1000 copies, in the first instance. The rest of the world will need at first about 500 more. SIL will pass copies in stages, as they become available, to priority areas, recognising that it is important for the US material to be got into the hands of opinion formers and leader writers well before the anniversary.

9. The public. The press release speaks of the book being distributed to "those interested" in Northern Ireland. I suggest that it might be sent to all who write in to ask, perhaps with a press release and compliments slip, but no more. There seems no reason in principle to decline copies to those outside Northern Ireland who write asking for one, either. Requests for multiple copies will need to be considered on their merits. We should have to think carefully about requests from Sinn Fein, or other subversive organisations.

Correspondence. Some people, no doubt, will write in with views on the Book, whether they have seen it or not. I imagine Ministers will want to reply personally to those on the 'priority recipients' lists, and perhaps some others. Private Offices might in general look to Press Office for draft or final replies, but copying widely where other divisions appear to have an interest. In most replies, there will be little point in getting involved in argument over the content of the book. The general line might be "[Ministers are grateful for] your views [which] will be carefully considered. The Government believes that the main messages in the book will be widely endorsed in all parts of the community in Northern Ireland; it also believes it is very well worthwhile to present them in this way. But it recognises that some will disagree with the messages, and others with the presentation of them".

Subject to your, or others' early reservations, the Press Office will distribute further copies of the book, and handle correspondence about it, in the way proposed above.

Mr. Whyte

ANNEX A: Lords who have received copies of the Book

Priority Lords

Lord Prys-Davis  
Lord Graham  
Lord Bonham-Carter  
Lord Harris  
Lord Blease  
Lord Brookeborough  
Lord Dunleath  
Lord Fitt  
Lord Moyola  
Lord O'Neill

Former Secretaries of State now in the Lords also have copies, as does Lord Lyell.

ANNEX B

Lord Hylton  
Lord Munson  
Lord Donaldson  
Lord Melchett  
Lord Gowrie  
Lord Mansfield  
Lord Windlesham  
Lord Belstead  
Lord Elton  
Duke of Abercorn