

C O N F I D E N T I A L

PAB/5860/RG

FROM: J E McCONNELL  
DATE: 22 JANUARY 1990



cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B  
PS/PUS  
1. PS/Sir K Bloomfield - B  
Mr Burns - B  
Mr Miles - B  
Mr Blackwell - B

2 ~~revised~~ PA 2

INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE APRIL 1990 - INVITATION TO  
MR HAUGHEY

I spoke to John Gorman, Executive Director IOD, during the course of a lunch on 17.1.90 and it is clear that he has the "bit between his teeth" in relation to this exercise.

Dr Quigley, Chairman Elect, met me before I spoke to Mr Gorman and I arranged to discuss the matter briefly with him and the current chairman David Linter in the presence of Mr Gorman. I made it clear in this exchange that, unlike the view given to both Dr Quigley and Mr Linter by Mr Gorman NIO had not given unreserved support to the idea. I told them that both Sir Kenneth Bloomfield and myself had expressed reservations on the political front to Mr Gorman and understood that he had taken note of these views and would be discussing them with the Chairman and Committee of IOD.

Mr Gorman had also told the Chairman and Committee that Dr Paisley, Jim Molyneaux and Jim Nicholson know and support the programme including the presence of Mr Haughey at the opening - this had caused not a little surprise to some of the Committee according to Mr Linter.

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Dr Quigley had some influence on the content of a letter which issued to members 18.1.90 (copy attached) and which calls for the views of members.

In the meantime Mr Gorman and his assistant Claire Faulkner have been to Dublin and received encouragement and "unreserved" support from DFA (Dermot Gallagher and Ann Anderson). Mr Gorman and Miss Faulkner took the view that Mr Haughey could perform the opening ceremony in his role as President of the European Council of Ministers without exciting political comment. I took the opportunity of stressing to them that it was naive to believe that the majority of people both North and South would not look on Mr Haughey as the Taoiseach.

Finally Mr Gorman rang today to confirm that Mr Haughey had indeed accepted the invitation and that the whole matter would be in the public domain tomorrow.

(SIGNED)

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