

From: PS/Dr Mawhinney
7 March 1990



PS/MofS (B&L) - B
PS/Dr Mawhinney (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir K Bloomfield - B
Mr Burns - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Miles
Mr Kirk - B
Mr J McConnell - B
Mr Blackwell - B
Mr Hill - B

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

CONVERSATION ON TUESDAY, 6 MARCH BETWEEN DR MAWHINNEY AND MR KEN MAGINNIS

1. Ken Maginnis MP rang Dr Mawhinney from the Commons yesterday evening. He was concerned to find out how the Minister thought the morning meeting between him and the McGimpsey brothers with the Secretary of State had gone. He appeared to be in a more relaxed and constructive mood than in the morning.
2. He confirmed that he had not been granted an SO 20 debate but said that Mr Speaker might be sympathetic to an application for an adjournment debate.
3. During the conversation, which was very friendly, Dr Mawhinney made four points all of which Mr Maginnis accepted:-
 - (i) the importance of keeping the debate about political development positive and constructive, rather than allowing it to degenerate into sterile argument;
 - (ii) Unionists always knew that Article 2 had legal validity and was not "just a political aspiration" - it was in the constitution. It was the legal aspect of it which had made it so offensive to Unionists;

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- (iii) the importance of keeping the debate among politicians rather than lawyers;
- (iv) all that had changed since the judgment was that the Unionists now had two objectives they wished to achieve through political developments - a new Agreement and a new Article 2.

4. Mr Maginnis asked that we obtain and place in the Commons Library copies of the submissions to and judgments of the Irish High Court and Supreme Court in the McGimpsey case. Dr Mawhinney said he would get back to him after the request had been considered. [Mr Thomas to advise, as per PS/Secretary of State's minute of 7 March titled 'Ken Maginnis MP: McGimpsey']

5. Finally, Dr Mawhinney thinks it is worthwhile noting the distance Unionist politics have moved. Such a phone call on a political matter would not have happened even 6 months ago.

Signed

JUNE INGRAM
PS/Dr Mawhinney

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