

cc MR HARE  
MR TAGGART  
MRS CHUBBLEW  
MASSACHUSETTS.



British Embassy  
Washington

30 December 1993

The Honorable F. William Weld  
Governor of Massachusetts  
State House

Ms Sheila Rogers  
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NIO

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Dear Sheila,

MACBRIDE; MASSACHUSETTS

1. The Ambassador has written to Governor Weld as requested by his office. I attach a copy of the letter.
2. I hope you can reach John Hume on Friday and persuade him to telephone the Governor. A message from him would have by far the greatest impact.
3. Weld is up for re-election next year. He cannot afford to alienate Irish American voters without suitable cover from Northern Ireland itself. He may well be unable to risk vetoing this measure.

The MacBride campaign and legislation such as House Bill 5552 are opposed by all the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland, including John Hume and the Democratic Unionist Party, which represents the majority of Catholics. The only party in Northern Ireland which supports the MacBride principles is Sinn Fein, the political arm of the IRA. As you may be aware, Sinn Fein wins only about ten percent of the vote in Northern Ireland.

*Yours sincerely  
J Powell*

J Powell

CC: Don Farr Esq, Boston

The British Government is strongly committed to removing discrimination in employment in Northern Ireland. The British Parliament passed the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act in 1977. It is enforced by a Fair Employment Commission and a Fair Employment Tribunal. Firms that do not comply are fined.

The only way to combat disparities of employment in Northern Ireland is to create new jobs in disadvantaged areas. The MacBride campaign has not created a single new job in Northern Ireland.



British Embassy  
Washington

30 December 1993  
(by fax: 617 523 7984)

The Honorable F William Weld  
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From The Ambassador

In considering whether to permit House Bill 5582 to become law, we hope that you will take full account of the negative effects passage of this legislation will be likely to have on employment in Northern Ireland.

I am writing to you about House Bill 5582 which regulates State contracts with companies doing business in or with Northern Ireland and seeks to impose the MacBride principles as the fair employment criteria for companies operating in Northern Ireland. I understand that this Bill has been presented to you.

This legislation would have a negative impact on the economy and people of Northern Ireland and potentially also in Massachusetts. The British Government, therefore, has serious concerns about it. We believe that the overall effect of the campaign will be to damage rather than advance the prospects of employment for Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.

The MacBride campaign and legislation such as House Bill 5582 are opposed by all the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland, including John Hume and the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which represents the majority of Catholics. The only party in Northern Ireland which supports the MacBride principles is Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA. As you may be aware, Sinn Fein wins only about ten percent of the vote in Northern Ireland.

The British Government is strongly committed to removing discrimination in employment in Northern Ireland. The British Parliament passed the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act in 1989. It is enforced by a Fair Employment Commission and a Fair Employment Tribunal. Firms that do not comply are fined.

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/Northern Ireland.



Northern Ireland. On the contrary, the hassle factor epitomised by this sort of legislation is liable to discourage U.S. companies from investing in Northern Ireland.

Legislation like House Bill 5582 has been voted down in other States, and vetoed by Governor Wilson in California, because of its adverse effects on trade and investment. As you will know, Governor McKernan of Maine vetoed a similar bill on 17 June.

British companies are the largest foreign investors in the United States and, we believe, in Massachusetts. Many British companies are keenly interested in possible further investments in the State, but would be concerned if they were likely to risk encountering difficulties in relation to their operations in Northern Ireland.

1. Thank you for your letter of 29 December alerting us to the fact that Bill 5582 in Massachusetts was passed by both the House and the Senate. In considering whether to permit House Bill 5582 to become law, we hope that you will take full account of the negative effects passage of this legislation will be likely to have on employment in Northern Ireland.
2. The passage of the Bill is bad news and we must do what we can to secure a gubernatorial veto. I would not, however, propose to take any action until Peter's return from leave on 4 January. We can then consider what action is most appropriate and whether or not we wish to involve John Hume.
3. In Northern Ireland yesterday (29 December) considerable media attention was given over to a statement of support by Irish Americans for the various peace initiatives going on in the province. Niall O'Dowd, editor of the Irish Voice, was featured at length. Perhaps this, together with the work that you have been doing in Boston, might persuade the Governor that now is not the best time to be signing into law a Bill which will not only bring further difficulties to Northern Ireland, but which will also prove unhelpful to the State of Massachusetts.

Robin Renwick

Yours sincerely

*Sheila Higgins*

SHEILA HIGGINS

- cc J Powell
- W Heire
- F Faggart

