

cc Secretary
Mr Spence
Mr Minnis
Mr McCabe
Mr McNeill
Mr Powell
Mr Perry
Miss Mitchison
Mr Kirk
Mr McAleer

28 April 1992

TO: Mr Taggart

FROM: D P McAuley

MR JOHN HUME - RECENT STATEMENT ON MACBRIDE

In the run up to the General Election, Radio Ulster held a series of phone-ins during the Talk Back Programme in which the leaders of the political parties answered questions from members of the public on a wide range of issues. During Mr Hume's phone-in, he was asked about his attitude to the MacBride Principles. The discussion, of which a transcript is attached, is a useful up-to-date restatement of Mr Hume's position.

I am sending a copy of this to officials in London, New York and Washington who may find it of interest.

D P McAuley
D P McAULEY

*Downton P/A SDUP file
As this is the top 15
copy, you might
want to keep it in
the file.*

RADIO ULSTER - TALKBACK MARCH 1992 (Pre-Election)
EXTRACT FROM PHONE-IN TO JOHN HUME, LEADER OF SDLP

David Dunseath "Michael is on the line with a question.

Michael Good afternoon Mr Hume. I would like to ask why you personally have flown out to America and gave evidence alongside British Government officials in opposition to the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment which of course are designed at alleviating the worsening anti-Catholic discrimination in Northern Ireland which to date the SDLP has failed to challenge effectively?

Mr Hume Well in the first place, I have never flown out with British officials to America to give evidence to anybody. Anything I have done in America I have done it myself and my views on the MacBride Principles campaign are very clear. I agree with the Principles, nobody disagrees with Principles of Fair Employment. What I think is that the campaign in the United States - and I know this for a fact - is stopping investment coming in here and if you look at the discrimination in the past in Northern Ireland the major discrimination was that areas, areas like the North-West, like West Belfast, like Newry & Mourne, were starved of inward investment and the facts show that and the answer to that discrimination is not a set of principles, the answer to that is inward investment and I have been heavily involved in the drive for inward investment particularly to get it into deprived areas and I see the MacBride Principles campaign in the States - why don't they instead of saying to companies in the States, if you come to Northern Ireland you better sign this, why don't they get the legislators to say, if you come to Northern Ireland and you go to areas of high unemployment we will give you this encouragement, and that is what I am telling them. And indeed we have had some success on that because we persuaded the American Congress to set up

the International Fund for Ireland and already, and I am just looking at figures just released, that has produced a total of 1,570 projects in areas of high unemployment in Northern Ireland, £98m of investment and 14,277 direct jobs when those projects are complete and 5,300 indirect jobs. Now I think my approach is a positive approach, I think the other one is a negative approach. We also support, and have supported the Fair Employment Commission and the Fair Employment Legislation and indeed the MacBride Principles people in America, the figures they are using are the figures produced by the Fair Employment Commission. The people who are engaged in that campaign know my views because I have put it to them face to face.

David Dunseath Do you want a brief challenge Michael.

Michael I would just like to challenge 2 things Mr Hume has said because as a prospective SDLP voter this is a serious concern of my own. From my own knowledge it has been stated in America by some of the people organising MacBride, Liz Holtzman the New York City Comptroller, that in fact the reason why companies are unlikely to invest in Northern Ireland is because of the serious nature of discrimination and the second point is that I am concerned he hasn't answered the direct question why the SDLP has failed to date to effectively challenge anti-Catholic discrimination which we all know now is worsening in fact.

Mr Hume First of all that is completely wrong. I mean, I came into politics as a leader of the Civil Rights movement

when major discrimination was the voting system. We now have one person one vote and the next was housing and it was our proposal to Jim Callaghan that set up the Northern Ireland Housing Executive which has transformed housing in Northern Ireland. On the employment front, jobs is going to be the only final answer because even when we do get a proper balance in public employment here which is now being worked at as a result of the Fair Employment Commission's figures we'll still have the heavy unemployment and that's where our major drive should be and that's what I am doing and I have made that very public and very clear and I hope you agree with me."