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AIDE MEMOIRE

The British Government in the United Kingdom wishes to inform the Peruvian Government and ask for their support in connexion with a development affecting the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the General Committee of the United Nations. As the Peruvian Government's representative at the United Nations will know, the Government of the Irish Republic is attempting to inscribe an item on the agenda for discussion by the General Committee, and that this item has been entitled by the Irish Republic "The Situation in Northern Ireland". The British Government wishes to point out urgently that both the title and substance of this item raises, by implication, the whole matter of the integrity of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Peruvian Government will understand that this implication cannot be accepted in any way by the British Government.

2. For this reason, and for the other reasons given below, the British Government most earnestly hopes that the Peruvian Government will agree that / the

the inscription referred to should not go forward. It is appreciated that Peru is not a member of the General Committee, but it is known that the representatives of Chile and Panama will not be voting simply as representatives of their Governments' views, but will be reflecting the general opinion amongst their geographic group. The British Government therefore hopes that the Government of Peru will instruct their representative at the United Nations to convey to the representatives of Chile and Panama their firm opinion that the item in question should not be voted for.

3. The British Government are on record as accepting that the human rights of citizens of member states are a matter of legitimate concern to the United Nations. If the Irish Government had wished to raise the question of human rights in Northern Ireland they could have done so in one of the human rights items already on the agenda for the General Committee, and the British Government would have been ready to join in such a discussion. But the Irish Government have not done this; they /have

have asked for the inscription of a separate item with a title and substance which raises much wider issues, including what amounts to a minority question. If this precedence were once established there would hardly be a member of the United Nations who would not have a domestic problem of its own eligible for examination.

4. Article 2(7) of the Charter of the United Nations makes clear that the internal political and social arrangements of member states are excluded from United Nations intervention. In this context, the Peruvian Government may care to recall that Northern Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom, sends its own Members of Parliament to Westminster and that these are elected by universal adult franchise.

5. The British Government are firmly and urgently embarked on actions necessary to solve the problems of Northern Ireland and do not need advice or intervention in doing this. Northern Ireland needs time for these reforms to be put into effect; any outside involvement will inflame passions and undermine the process of reform.

British Embassy,

Lima.

15 September, 1969.