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IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

17, GROSVENOR PLACE,

S.W.1.

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11 November, 1966.

Dear Seán,

You will have noticed in the press, particularly in the Belfast Telegraph which has the best account of the affair, that a group of opposition M.Ps from Stormont lobbied the British Parliamentarians on Wednesday last.

This was arranged by Mr. Paul Rose, M.P. ^{with} against the Campaign for Democracy in Ulster. The U.I.A. were not aware of the proposal nor was the Embassy informed either by the C.D.U. or by the Nationalist M.Ps before they arrived.

This, I think, is an indication of the extent to which the U.I.A. is becoming divorced from activities with regard to Partition or discrimination in the North. Its place is being taken by C.D.U. which has a somewhat left-wing basis and has virtually no links with this Embassy. I gather that the links between Nationalist M.Ps in the North and the Department of the Government must also be becoming more tenuous at the present time, and I wonder if we should not reconsider our position in this regard.

I realise that to do so might seem to be in conflict with our policy of friendship, where possible, with the Six Counties, and a refusal to let the sore thumb of Partition prevent our mutual development. While I agree that this prevents us from overt agitation on the Partition and discrimination questions, I feel it should not preclude us from more active links with both the Nationalist and other anti-Partition forces in the Six Counties, and, if necessary, the Campaign for Democracy in Ulster here.

The motive of Paul Rose and other British Labour M.Ps in organising the C.D.U. is not basically friendly to the idea of United Ireland. On the contrary, it has two purposes, first is the elimination of the Ulster Unionists bloc vote as at present constituted and its replacement by a Labour Party vote in the Six Counties. The tendency indeed is more towards an integration of the Six Counties even more closely into the United Kingdom. The feeling is that, if discrimination against Catholics end, instead of using their greater freedom for Irish Nationalist ends, they will use it for British Labour Party ends.

I think we have to consider the implications of this and decide whether we should not ensure as much as possible that we maintain our anti-Partition and pro-unification base in the North and prevent it from being stolen for other causes.

Yours sincerely,

Counsellor

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