

33/1101
CONFIDENTIAL

E.R. PAB/1116/DP

Mr D A Hill
SIL

cc: Mr Pearson

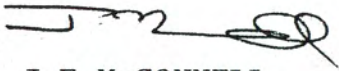
GRANT AID TO THE IRISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "LA"

Your minute of 22 October to Mr Hewitt refers.

I have sounded opinion on this issue among members of the SDLP and the clergy in West Belfast. It is not the subject of great debate but in general there is a feeling that support for the paper should be given.

There has been a great revival interest in the Irish language and I very much doubt if any nationalist representatives would find it easy either in private or public to oppose grant aid.

I hope this is of some help.



J E McCONNELL
Political Affairs Division
31 October 1985

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Mr Hewitt PAB

cc Mr Pearson ✓

GRANT AID TO THE IRISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER 'LA'

The Irish language daily newspaper 'LA' ^{has} applied for aid from the Government, through LEDU. The Secretary of State approved their application provided that they do not locate their business at the Conway Mill which has paramilitary links. An Article in the 'Irish News' of 26 September subsequently reported that the Irish Government had turned down a request for grant aid.

In view of this action taken by the Irish Government the Secretary of State has now agreed that we should consult the Irish before paying the grant. (LEDU had not been told of the original approval and had not paid the grant). We have sent a telegram to Dublin to ... this effect (copy attached). Dr Boyson has suggested that the views of constitutional nationalists within Northern Ireland should also be sought. I wonder if you could seek the views of nationalist representatives on a confidential basis. Ministers are already aware that Sinn Fein and republican prisoners have bought shares in the paper.

... I attach copies of the relevant papers and would be grateful for an early response.

D A Hill
D A HILL
SIL
22 October 1985
Encs

JLD

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1810
E.R.
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Mr Bell

cc:-PS/Secretary of State(L&B)
PS/Dr Boyson(L&B)
PS/Mr Scott(L&B)
PS/PUS(L&B)
PS/Mr Bloomfield
Mr Brennan
Mr Chesterton
Mr Carvill
Mr Ferneyhough
Mr ~~Pearson~~
Mr Fell
Mr Cowling
Miss Elliott

GRANT AID TO THE IRISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER 'LA'

The Secretary of State has seen your submission of 9 October and Mr Gamble's note of 11 October. He has agreed that the draft telegram to Dublin should be sent; and he would be grateful for your early advice on Dr Boyson's suggestion that the views of constitutional nationalists within Northern Ireland should also be sought.

Jonathan Duke-Evans

J B DUKE-EVANS
Assistant Private Secretary

17 October 1985

ssd

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PS/Secretary of State(L)

cc:-PS/Secretary of State(B)

PS/Dr Boyson(L&B)

PS/Mr Scott(L&B)

PS/PUS(L&B)

PS/Mr Bloomfield

Mr Brennan

Mr Chesterton

Mr Carvill

Mr Fennel

Mr Pearson

Mr Fell

Mr Cowling

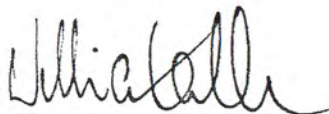
Mr Bell

Miss Elliott

GRANT AID TO THE IRISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER 'LA'

Dr Boyson has seen Mr Bell's submission to you of 9 October and has the following comments to make:-

- (a) If the Irish Government have turned down a request for grant then he would be inclined to the view that we should reject it also.
- (b) Whilst consulting the Irish Government we might at the same time sound out the views of constitutional nationalists like John Hume. We must be careful that the SDLP are not further undermined by Sinn Fein.



WILLIAM GAMBLE
PS/Dr Boyson

11 October 1985

ssd

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E.R.

PS/Secretary of State (L)

cc: PS/SofS(B)
PS/Dr Boyson (L&B)
PS/PUS (L&B)
PS/Mr Bloomfield
Mr Brennan
Mr Chesterton
Mr Carvill
Mr Ferneyhough
Mr Pearson
Mr Fell
Mr Cowling
Miss Elliott

GRANT AID TO THE IRISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER 'LA'

The "Irish News", 26 September, reports that the Irish Government (Department of the Gaeltacht) has turned down a request for grant aid from the Irish language newspaper 'LA'. The paper is seeking funds to carry out a three-year expansion programme to establish it as a national daily with a distribution both in Belfast and Dublin. The publishers hope to increase the paper's circulation from the present 1000 copies a day to 10,000. In response to a fund-raising appeal Sinn Fein and republican prisoners have bought shares in the paper.

2. The newspaper has also applied for aid from us, through LEDU. We understand that the Secretary of State has approved their application provided that they do not locate their business at the Conway Mill which has paramilitary links (your minute of 23 September). (LEDU have not yet been told of this)

3. Given the action taken by the Irish Government, it would however be prudent to consult the Irish before a final decision is taken. I therefore recommend that no further action should be taken until we know their views. We would make it clear to the Irish that Ministers are inclined to approve LA's application to LEDU, although they may wish to consider the application again in the light of the ... Irish response. I attach a draft telegram to Dublin indicating our position and asking the Irish for their views. I should be grateful to know if the Secretary of State is content for this to be issued.

4. I would, of course, advise Ministers again in the light of the Irish response.

P N Bell
P N BELL

9 October 1985

E.R.

DRAFT TELEGRAM TO DUBLIN

GRANT AID TO IRISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER LA

1. We have seen an article in the Irish News on 26 September indicating that the Irish Government (Department of the Gaeltacht) has turned down a request for grant aid from the Irish language newspaper "LA", to help establish it as a national daily.
2. The newspaper has also applied for grant aid from the British Government. They have not yet been notified of any decision but Ministers are inclined to give them a grant provided that they do not locate their business at the Conway Mill where they would be subjected to paramilitary influences. We regard the newspaper as not at present under paramilitary control and would, in principle, like to help it as an example of what HMG is doing to uphold nationalist identity. NIO Ministers however wish to know Irish views before making a final decision.
3. Could you ascertain the Irish Government's views and confirm that the Irish Government has refused grant aid. You should indicate our Ministers' views.
4. Grateful for an early response.

E. P.

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J C Stutt
Department of Economic Development
Netherleigh

cc. *W* PS/Mr Bloomfield
Mr Carvill
Mr Angus

4/16
2 SEC/6

COMMUNITY GROUPS

1. Following your minute of 30 September 1985, I had hoped to facilitate your wish to inform LEDU about all the matters covered by the Secretary of State's recent decisions. We agreed to hold for a day or two until there was a response from London on the question of the grant to LA.
2. I now understand from London that the advice which they are seeking through our Embassy in Dublin may take some time, and therefore I feel that the only course for you at this stage is to contact LEDU on those issues excluding LA.
3. If you decide to move forward on this basis I should be grateful if you would let us in Central Secretariat, and Mr Max Reid, see drafts of your proposed advice to LEDU.
4. I shall continue to press my colleagues in London on the need for an urgent response on LA. If the word is unfavourable it may necessitate a submission to the Secretary of State. I hope this will not be necessary and I will do everything in my power to expedite this particular issue.
5. In the context of community groups, may I also refer to the case of
Mr Hardy wrote to me on 2 October and asked for an early response on this case. I have to say at this stage that there is a strong likelihood that further high level consideration of this case will be necessary and that a decision on it cannot be expected very quickly. Therefore I must ask you to hold this one and stall for another two or three weeks.

Trevor Pearson

TREVOR PEARSON

3 October 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

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DRAFT TELEGRAM TO DUBLIN

Please Refer to:
Mr Angus, Central Secretariat
Grateful for advice &
clearance.

H. Campbell
Sec. 2/10.

GRANT AID TO IRISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER LA

1. We have seen an article in the Irish News on 26 September indicating that the Irish Government (Department of Gaeltacht) has turned down a request for grant aid from the Irish language newspaper LA, to help establish it as a national daily.
2. The newspaper has also applied for grant aid from the British Government. They have not yet been notified of any decision but we are considering giving them a grant provided that they do not locate their business at the Conway Mill where they would be subjected to paramilitary influences.
3. We should like to have the DFA's views on this and for confirmation that the Irish Government has refused grant aid.

Grateful for an early response.



I have told H. Campbell
that we are content
(following discussion with
T. Pearson)

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JLD

3/10/85.

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Mr Pearson
Central Secretariat

COMMUNITY GROUPS

1. You asked, in view of the report in last Thursday's Irish News about the refusal of the Irish Government to grant aid the LA project, that this Department delay taking any action in relation to the Secretary of State's recent approval of payment of grant to LA.
2. We have not yet informed LEDU of the Secretary of State's decisions. It would be useful to have your views on whether we should respond to LEDU now on the other related issues or delay our response until we can instruct the Agency on all the issues (including LA) which it raised. I would be grateful for an early reply.

Whi Stutt

J C STUTT

30 September 1985

cc Secretary
Mr Hardy

memo.
Discussed today and agreed
to delay for a day or two until
SIL advised on LA following
enquiries in Dublin through FCO net.
It is unlikely all LEDU cases will
be decided soon, PED may need
to go twice to LEDU.

J.P.
1/10/85.

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