

DJW/13/10



FROM: D J WATKINS
US CENT SEC
DATE: 8 OCTOBER 1993

CC: Mr Semple
Mr Cooke - B
Mr Maxwell - B

Mr Todd, IFI Secretariat

CONWAY MILL

1. Thank you for your minute of 4 October. I see that Congressman Hoke has since gone public with his report in similar terms to those used in his letter of 23 September to your Chairman.
2. I take it that you do not envisage Mr McCarter seeking to rebut or otherwise comment on the tendentious opinions offered by the Congressman at various points in his letter. In tackling that point, I fear that you will be tightly constrained to the terms of the letter which you will, I assume, in light of Mike Maxwell's minute of 7 October to David Crabbe, shortly be sending to Father Wilson. The only way that I can see you putting any spin on this ball would be to find a means of repeating the essence of the Hurd policy as re-interpreted by Tom King on 9 February 1989. Partly this may depend on whether you envisage attaching to your reply to Father Wilson a copy of the King statement. But if you do so, might it then be possible to provide a synopsis of it to the Congressman in which you might underline the (entirely accurate and truthful) point that our policy on withholding payments to certain groups is intended to bite where those payments would directly or indirectly further the aims of a paramilitary organisation?

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3. The point in inserting this into a letter would be to rebut the Congressman's apparent misconception that this policy is aimed at groups with whose politics HMG disagrees. I recognise, however, that I can do no more than put this suggestion to you to consider in light of the independent standing of the Fund.

[Signed DJW]

D J WATKINS

CONWAY STREET COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES PROJECT LTD

You wrote to Central Secretariat earlier this year seeking advice on a request from Father Des Wilson of Conway Street Community Enterprises Project Ltd for a meeting with ICS to discuss funding for the Mill's work in the area.

Having carefully considered all the relevant information the Secretary of State has decided that Government funding will continue to be withheld from projects operating in or out of Conway Mill in line with the statement made by Mr Tom King on 9 February 1988 (copy attached).

You will now wish to advise Father Wilson, and I attach an appropriate draft letter for your Chairman to send to him. This draft has been cleared by our legal adviser.

Yours sincerely

M T H Maxwell

M T H MAXWELL

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