

Mrs McAuley 14/5
'X' is not true. We had a
big argument with her in
DANI when she wanted to call
herself
Minister of
Agriculture & we had to
explain why she couldn't !!
NOTE FOR THE RECORD

CONFIDENTIAL

ASST
SEC 12 MAY 1997
CENT SEC

cc

PS/PUS (B&L)

PS/Sir David Bell

Mr Loughran

Mr Thomas

Mr Bell

Mr Stephens

Mr Fisher

HMA Dublin

MC



BARONESS DENTON'S DINNER WITH THE IRISH JOINT SECRETARY - 30 APRIL 1997

Baroness Denton joined David Donoghue, Irish Joint Secretary, Kieran Dowling, Steve Magner and Joe Hackett for an "end of term" dinner on 30 April. John Fisher and I were also in attendance.

The evening was, on the eve of the election, relaxed and informal, although perhaps a disproportionate amount of time was spent on discussion of the Hayes review. Mr Fisher has kindly agreed to document political discussion. Other issues discussed were as follows.

Hayes Report

Baroness Denton explained the background to events and how hurtful the media campaign waged against her had been. She expressed her surprise at the position of Ministers in Northern Ireland, as documented by Dr Hayes, which had not been clarified to her before.

The Minister agreed with Dr Hayes' conclusion that the harassment and recruitment issues had not been handled well, but was pleased that she had been cleared of any suggestion of harassment.

Baroness Denton was interested to hear how the Irish viewed events. Mr Donaghue explained that it was not regarded as necessary to issue a statement in the wake of the Hayes report and that the issue was now effectively closed. Their view had been, however, that the government response had been somewhat selective and the element which could not be easily explained was the retention of the "harasser" in post whilst the "harassee" was transferred.

The Minister believes that, despite reassurances made over dinner that the events have affected her relationship with Dublin.



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Fair Employment

There was brief discussion on Fair Employment measures and Baroness Denton put forward the view that the legislation was now firmly in place and the way forward on fair employment is essentially economic and educational issues.

Mr Donaghue and colleagues did not seem convinced and there seemed to be a definite lack of confidence in what had been and continues to be achieved, with the Irish not rejecting a possible need for quotas to achieve Fair Employment.

The Minister added that she would be keen to see the SACHR review on Fair Employment.

PE Survey

There was some discussion on the tough PE round and the effect on, for example ACE funding. All agreed that ACE cuts had had an unwelcome effect on those whose services were withdrawn following some cuts but that these effects were not the primary aim of the programme, and should be funded by more appropriate Departments.

Inward Investment

Baroness Denton praised the work of the IDB in attracting inward investment to Northern Ireland and for their work in TSN areas.

Susan Foster

SUSAN FOSTER
Private Secretary

2 May 1997



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