



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL
BELFAST BT1 5GS

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor
Councillor Reginald N. M. Empey, B.Sc.(Econ.)

The Rt. Hon. Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Stormont Castle
BELFAST 4

25 November 1993

Dear Sir Patrick

Pressure is being applied to Her Majesty's Government to make a 'declaration' on what is described as the 'legitimacy' and 'value' of Irish unity, as a means of encouraging the Provisional IRA/Sinn Fein to cease violence and fully enter the political arena.

Unionists accept that any Irish Nationalist in Northern Ireland is fully entitled to aspire, by democratic means, to create a 32 County Irish Republic - you cannot take a person's aspirations away from him/her. So the request for Her Majesty's Government to recognise the legitimacy of this is an 'Aunt Sally'. What the Hume/Adams, and possibly Irish Government's objectives are, is to change Her Majesty's Government's position from 'neutrality' to that of 'persuader' by expressing that the goal of Irish unity is not only legitimate (we all agree), but also desirable and in the Government's opinion the inevitable or appropriate ultimate solution, albeit accompanied by the required 'consent'.

This would place the Irish Government, British Government, Hume/Adams and all nationalism on one side of the field, and Unionism on the other - a perfect position from which to 'persuade' unionists.

Such a declaration from Her Majesty's Government would provoke a crisis of confidence, cast serious doubt over the Province's future, and create a very unstable situation, far worse than that of 1985.

I think we understand the many pressures upon the Prime Minister. He has the pressure that terrorism itself creates; the economics of the Northern Ireland budget, and the international ramifications of the continuing conflict here. If we were absolutely satisfied about Her Majesty's Government's attitude on the question of a 'declaration', I don't doubt that we could say and do things which would ease pressure on the Prime Minister.

I do hope we won't be shut out as in 1985, as we can, and must, be part of a successful outcome to the political negotiations.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR REG EMPEY BSc (Econ)
Lord Mayor