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Please keep on the Kennedy file
V. Wastan
26/10/89
FROM: P N BELL
DATE 25 OCTOBER 1989

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PS/Secretary of State (B)

cc

PS/Sec of State (L)-B
PS/Min of State (L&B)-B
PS/MrNeedham (L&B)-B
PS/Sir K Bloomfield - B
Mr Fell
Mr Wilson - B
Mr Blackwell - B

a Mr Gandy
Mr Wastan

SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY: LOYALIST TERRORISTS/COLLUSION

1. Senator Kennedy wrote to the Secretary of State on 20 September in response to the Secretary of State's letter of 16 August on the ~~new~~ Fair Employment Act, and also raising the topic of allegations of collusion between loyalist terrorists and members of the security forces.

2. I attach a draft reply sharing in general terms Mr Kennedy's hopes for the new Fair Employment legislation (which contribution has been approved by Mr Needham), and expressing the Government's determination to ensure that the allegations of collusion between members of the security forces and terrorists are thoroughly investigated, giving details of progress to date and joining Mr Kennedy's concerns over confidence in the security forces, etc with our own and those of the IC.

3. You may recall a previous SIL submission on this subject. This was based on what turned out to be the mistaken assumption that the original letter from Senator Kennedy had been lost, when it had in fact been acknowledged by the Belfast Private Office and was being dealt with by SPOB, in collaboration with DED on the Fair Employment aspects. Given the Senator's influential role in Irish American affairs, a comprehensive reply to him is preferable.

P N Bell

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Security Policy and Operations Division
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DP/8720

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER 4/10/11

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

<u>To</u>	<u>Enclosures</u>	<u>Copies to be sent to</u>
Edward M Kennedy Esq United States Senate Washington DC 20510		

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY SECRETARY OF STATE

Thank you for your letter of 20 September.

I am glad to note that you found my detailed response to your concerns about the Fair Employment Act helpful. Like you, I hope that the new Act will quickly ensure fair employment and equality of economic opportunity in Northern Ireland, and will also help promote in the longer term reconciliation between the two communities. The

key task now is effective implementation of the Act. The Government is determined to achieve this and I have asked Richard Needham, the Minister for the Economy, to take personal charge in ensuring that this is done

As to your understandable concern over recent allegations of collusion between elements in the Security Forces and loyalist terrorists, I hardly need say that both we and the Irish Government are as at one in regarding this as a matter of the utmost seriousness. The British Government is quite clear that there can be no place in the security forces for those who betray the trust placed in them by their colleagues and the wider community. We have also made absolutely clear that any form of association between members of illegal paramilitary organisations, of whatever persuasion, or other association incompatible with membership of the security forces, is totally unacceptable to us. That is why we welcome the investigation which the Chief Constable of the RUC has requested a senior British policeman, Mr Stevens, the Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, to undertake into the recent allegations, and also to produce the earliest possible comprehensive report. As you may have seen from the charges which have already been brought, this enquiry is being conducted with great vigour, and Mr Stevens and his team are receiving the utmost cooperation from both the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Army. You also have my word that the British Government will address expeditiously any implications in Mr Stevens report which are for us, and we will consider carefully whether any further measures are needed in addition to those that have already been taken.

These include further safeguards on the handling of security material such as "photo montages" - the recognition aids which it has been alleged have been passed to paramilitaries - and it will in future be an offence to retain such documents without authority. These rules apply to all personnel of the armed forces, including reservists, who are serving or who have served for an appreciable period in Northern Ireland.

The Army has also improved the process of screening new recruits to the UDR, including those transferred from Regular Army units, and for follow-up review action where this is appropriate. As part of these new measures, the Army has set up an enhanced, dedicated unit for screening in the UDR, manned by members of the Regular Army.

In short, your concern echoes our own. There can be no division between those, like ourselves and the Dublin Government, who believe in democracy and hate terrorism about the fundamental importance of building the confidence of all the community in the integrity of the Security Forces. We all know that terrorism can only be defeated in the long run through the operation of the rule of law, and that confidence in the integrity and even handedness of the security forces is as necessary as their undoubted bravery for our success in the struggle against those whose aim is to overcome democracy in the island of Ireland by the use of force. After the tragic deaths of so many over the twenty years of the current campaign by the Provisional IRA and other terrorists, and with recent horrific

murders in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and on the Continent fresh in our minds, you need have no doubts about our resolution to bring to justice the evil people, from which ever side of the community they come, who perpetrate such crimes, and those too who help them.

Thank you, finally, for your good wishes on my new appointment. I am certainly enjoying the undeniable challenges which the post offers, and I look forward to meeting you soon, perhaps in Washington.

DP/8720