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Confidential

W. Hume
W. Murray

26/11
26/11

Note

As instructed by the Taoiseach's Department I telephoned Mr. MacAreavy at SDLP headquarters. I said the Taoiseach wished to convey to the SDLP, through him, a message of sympathy and support in the difficulties which had arisen. I said that the Taoiseach had expressed his hope that these difficulties would not in any way impair the progress of the party and that the SDLP would continue as a unified and effective political force in the North, where the Taoiseach believed it had a most important contribution to make.

Mr. MacAreavy said that he was very grateful for the message, which would be greatly appreciated by the Party. The event had brought about a tremendous reflex of party unity all over Northern Ireland. John Hume would be putting out a statement tomorrow as acting Party Leader. I mentioned to Mr. MacAreavy that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had said to Mr. Hurd in the European Parliament that Mr. Atkins' statements on presentation of the paper about the Irish dimension had been very unhelpful both to the Government and the SDLP - a point also made by John Hume in his RTE interview today in relation to the SDLP. At the conclusion of our conversation Mr. MacAreavy again asked me to convey his thanks to the Taoiseach.

Sean O Huiginn
22 November 1979

- c.c. PSM
- PSS
- Mr. Neligan
- Mr. Nally ✓
- Ambassador London