

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Attorney-General's meeting with Harrison Goldin,  
New York City Comptroller

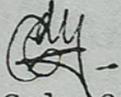
1. The Attorney-General received Mr. Goldin and his aide, Pat Doherty, at 1.10 p.m. today. Because of the late arrival of Messrs. Goldin and Doherty the meeting lasted only about 15 minutes.
  
2. Mr. Goldin began by expressing thanks for what had been done for him already and his appreciation of the opportunity to meet with the Attorney-General. He said that they had had a very full programme in Northern Ireland, meeting with Hurd, Cooper, Hume, McCusker and Morrison PSF, but that they had not had enough time in the Republic. He hoped it would be possible to return to this part of the country. Mr. Goldin stated that New York City public investments currently amount to \$23 billion and that it was hoped to increase this to \$50 billion over a 3-year period. He claimed that over \$300 million of this was invested in U.S. firms doing business in Northern Ireland and he described himself as the "asset manager" for these funds. His aim was to begin to "interpose" fair employment practices in the operations of these U.S. firms and this would, he said, involve the application of the MacBride principles.
  
3. At this point the Attorney referred to the Taoiseach's comments on the MacBride principles in New York during his recent visit and Goldin said that he was gratified by what the Taoiseach had said. The Attorney remarked that we had a slight reservation about the MacBride principles in so far as advice that we were receiving from some of our contacts in Northern Ireland was that the full and vigorous application of them might cause problems. This was because such an

application could be interpreted as a quota system or as reverse discrimination. Mr. Goldin replied that this fear was based on a "strained interpretation" of the MacBride principles and he emphasised that he was against both a quota system and reverse discrimination. The Attorney said that the advice from Northern Ireland was of a very high quality and we could not ignore it. Mr. Goldin repeated his opposition to quotas and reverse discrimination and he said that he was going to eliminate this difficulty which we had identified by revising the wording of the MacBride principles to take account of it. He had already spoken to Sean MacBride about this and hoped that with this revision that it would be possible for us to wholeheartedly endorse the principles. Such an endorsement would be, he said, a very good thing.

4. Mr. Goldin went on to say that he was deeply distressed at the treatment given him by Gallaghers (a subsidiary of American Brands) and Hughes who had both, he said, effectively refused him admission. Gallaghers, said Mr. Goldin, wished to determine who would accompany him on a visit to their plant and Hughes claimed that they had no foreman to accompany him. Goldin felt that both firms must have something to hide.

5. The Attorney asked Mr. Goldin how he had found Hurd during their meeting, to which Goldin replied that they had had a "direct exchange". The Attorney pointed out to Mr. Goldin that we had raised issues of discrimination with Mr. Hurd too. Goldin said that he had also told Hurd about his intention to revise the MacBride principles in order to deal with the problem presented by what he again described as "the strained interpretation" which was being put on the MacBride principles in Northern Ireland and here. The MacBride principles, said Mr. Goldin, were not the problem, discrimination was. The principles were designed to create a proper environment for U.S. investment and the FEA, which was now simply a "paper tiger", needed more resources. At this point Goldin's aide, Doherty, intervened to say that Hurd had

told them that the FEA budget was under review. The meeting ended at 1.25 p.m. as Goldin had to leave for a flight to London.



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