

FROM PS/Secretary of State  
29 June 1992

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B  
PS/Mr Hanley (B&L) - B  
PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
PS/Mr Fell - B  
Mr Thomas - B  
Mr Ledlie - B  
Mr Alston  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mr Petch - B  
Mr D J R Hill - B  
Mr D A Hill - B  
Mr Clayton (HOLAB)

UNDER/ 1444/6  
SEC  
30 JUN 1992  
CENT SEC



Mr May - B

*Mr Watkins*  
*for file*  
*Done*  
*29/6*

ELECTION PETITION AGAINST DR HENDRON, MP

The Secretary of State was grateful for sight of your note of 26 June.

He has commented that it is right that the SDLP should be taking the case very seriously since the probability is that some irregularities will be established. His own hunch, however, which he hopes will not prove to be optimistic, is that the Court will probably not take a serious view of them and that there will therefore be no adverse outcome.

(signed)

*into column of*

*It is simplistic. Any case heard at all which weeds any irregularities will have an adverse outcome.*

W R FITTALL  
Private Secretary

*Ho*  
*30.6*

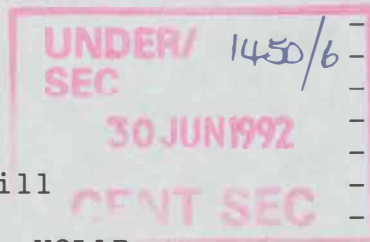
GMCC/SOFS/9838

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM: PUS  
29 JUNE 1992



- cc. PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Hanley (L,B&DENI) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Ledlie - B
- Mr Alston - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Petch - B
- Mr D J R Hill - B
- Mr Rickard - B
- Mr Clayton, HOLAB - B
- Mr P May - B



*Mr W. G. ...*

*Mr Watkins*  
*for free*  
*Stee*

*29/6*

MR D A HILL - B

ELECTION PETITION AGAINST DR HENDRON MP

I saw Mr May's minute of 26 June about his conversation with Tom Kelly. John Hume (whom I saw on the afternoon of 26 June) also mentioned the matter to me, in a way that reinforced the impression that Tom Kelly made on Mr May. John Hume was clearly seriously concerned about the possibility of a threat to Dr Hendron's position; and his own contribution to the threat in terms of the generic leaflet which by mischance included Tom Kelly's name as Dr Hendron's election agent (though if I understood John Hume rightly, copies of the leaflet distributed in other constituencies did not include the election agent's name there).

2. I agree with Mr May's conclusion that the case itself, and a fortiori an adverse outcome for Dr Hendron, will create a very considerable propaganda platform for Sinn Fein (not least in the USA - and you may want to copy the exchanges to SIL for that reason).

Signed:

J A CHILCOT

29 JUNE 1992

C O N F I D E N T I A L

JEN/L/6/57/34296

*File*

R E S T R I C T E D

UNDER/ 1262/6  
SEC  
25 JUN 1992  
CENT SEC

FROM: D A HILL  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIVISION  
24 JUNE 1992

ASST JHC 83/6  
SEC 25 JUN 1992  
CENT

HEAD OF THE N.I.  
7769  
24 JUN 1992  
CIVIL SERVICE

cc PS/Mr Hanley (L,B\*&DENI\*) B  
PS/PUS (L&B\*) - B  
PS/Mr Feill\* - B  
Mr Ledlie\* - B  
Mr Thomas (L&B\*) - B  
Mr Alston\* - B  
Mr Petch\*  
Mr Maccabe\* - B  
Mr D J R Hill (L&B\*) - B  
Mr May  
Mr Clayton (HOLAB)  
\* without attachment

*→ Mr McConall HUSG*

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B\*) - B

*Mr W. Adams - for file  
24/6*

ELECTION PETITION AGAINST DR HENDRON, MP

An election petition has been made against Dr Hendron by a Ms McCrory who was a voter in the General Election in West Belfast and whose solicitors have represented Gerry Adams in the past. The grounds are that Dr Hendron spent more than the statutory limit for election expenses. On first sight, the petition seems well founded and may well succeed; the petitioner is evidently confident and well funded, since she has already lodged money with the court against costs. The case is likely to be heard by an election court in September. The petition, which was made public today, is attached.

2. The election court, which sits without a jury, will decide whether Dr Hendron and/or his agents were guilty of failing to provide a true return of payments in connection with the election, which would constitute an "illegal practice". If the court finds for the petitioner Dr Hendron's election could be declared void and the court could order that the election be re-run. Dr Hendron would be disqualified from standing again. The potential consequences for the SDLP of the petition are therefore serious.

3. PAB are to inquire about the SDLP's attitude towards the petition.

R E S T R I C T E D

CN/ESL/12183

R E S T R I C T E D

4. This information is nearly all the public domain, and Mr Alston may wish to relay it to the Irish.

(SIGNED): D A Hill

D A HILL  
ESL Division  
OAB Ext 6495  
24 June 1992

R E S T R I C T E D

CN/ESL/12183