

ASST SEC 10 51013
20 MAR 1995
CENT SEC

900/94

M: PUS
16 MARCH 1995

1. *cc Mrs Keating
I can't see Hurd
as a real problem
here*
2. *LD25/3*

*It may be that Hurd
deters us/ours from
applying to Govt for
assistance; but surely it
can have no effect
on Frank's funding (as
our counterpart
contribution, perhaps). *LD 203**

- PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
- PS/Michael Ancram (L,B&DENI) - B
- PS/Sir John Wheeler (L,B&DFP) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Legge - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Blackwell - B
- Mr Brooke - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Steele - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Williams - B
- Director, TFU - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Stephens - B

C

UNDER/ SEC 842/3
20 MAR 1995
CENT SEC

MR LEACH - B

LOYALIST POLITICAL PARTIES: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

I have had a message from a totally reliable (and non-intelligence) source that both the fringe Loyalist parties, the UDP and the PUP, are in desperate financial straits. Neither is in a position to garner support or mount its political programme. This has arisen in particularly acute form in relation to the cost of attendance at St Patrick's Day frolics in New York, but that is merely a particular example of a general problem.

2. The message that was passed to me was a cri de coeur that some form of funding might flow legitimately to the two Loyalist parties.

3. I did not hear in what was said a bid for Government funding, nor particularly a complaint that the Hurd doctrine operated to inhibit the flow of funds from, for example, the charitable trusts. Nor, specifically, was it suggested that objections to Sinn Fein fundraising was seen as inhibiting a modest degree of financial support from United States sources (though that might well be true).

Hurd would not affect trusts!

4. I should be grateful if you in conjunction with PAB and others concerned would consider whether there is indeed a problem here, and whether there is anything within the power of Government to overcome or ease it without creating disproportionate difficulties vis-à-vis the constitutional parties, the Republican movement, the Hurd doctrine, or our stance (at least at present) regarding Sinn Fein fundraising in the USA.

Signed:

JOHN CHILCOT

16 MARCH 1995