

hcc : PS/sops (BOL)

/Michael Antram (BOL)

PS/Business Denton (BOL)

PS/PUS (BOL)

PS/Sir D Fell

MR Legge

MR Thomas

MR Steele

MR Watkins

MR Leach

MR Macrabe

MR ~~Ferry~~

MR Wood

MR Beeton

MR Bell

MR Hill

MR Stephens

MR Carson

MR Gamble

MR Jagelman

MR Lavery

SOS/587/96

Security Policy & Operations

Received:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SECURITY POLICY & OPERATIONS 1

Northern Ireland Office

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REF.
NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE (B)

5160

23 September 1996

For your letter of 9 September in which you drew to my attention a motion passed by the Forum on Friday 6 September on the supporting of businesses in Northern Ireland.

I have noted the terms of the Forum's motion. As I have already stated publicly, any form of discrimination, whether it is the boycotting of businesses or any other, is wholly unjust. It is wrong, and it must stop.

You may know that Michael Antram recently met with representatives of Unionist parties to discuss this matter, and has further agreed to meet with a group of Unionists in the near future. I trust that this will serve to reinforce the values of the seriousness with which I and my Ministerial colleagues see this issue.

Jonathan
Palmer



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SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
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BELFAST
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23 September 1996

James Gorman:

Thank you for your letter of 9 September in which you drew to my attention a motion passed by the Forum on Friday 6 September on the boycotting of businesses in Northern Ireland.

I have noted the terms of the Forum's motion. As I have already stated publicly, any form of discrimination, whether it is the boycotting of businesses or any other, is wholly unjust. It is wrong, and it must stop.

You may know that Michael Ancram recently met with representatives of Unionist parties to discuss this matter, and has further agreed to meet with a group of traders in the near future. I trust that this will serve to reassure the Forum of the seriousness with which I and my Ministerial colleagues view this issue.

James Gorman
Tahidi
