

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 1AA

From: Peter Westmacott

Date: Charge

cc: Mr McDonald
Mr Oakden, No 10 (fax)

W23/8

Charge

NORTHERN IRELAND: MACBRIDE

1. As suggested in my letter of 22 August, Mr Oakden (No 10) spoke to Nancy Soderberg this morning to register the Prime Minister's concern that the MacBride issue should not be mishandled. He is sending us a note of his conversation, but told me afterwards that Soderberg had been receptive, and had promised to clear with No 10 and ourselves the text of the latest draft being submitted to the President for despatch to Lyons (US observer on the IFI Board) and Atwood (USAID).

2. I have spoken separately to State Department. Strobe Talbott is meeting Lake at midday on other business, but is being briefed to raise MacBride in helpful terms, emphasising the potential damage to US interests of either upsetting the IFI apple-cart or - more serious - undermining George Mitchell's position. Ambassador Crowe has already weighed in from London making the same points. And, as you know, Martha Pope will be at the NSC this morning speaking on Mitchell's behalf.

3. I think we have now done as much lobbying as the circuits will bear. The next task is to get our hands on the NSC's draft letter, and to feed in our comments urgently. I will pursue.

Peter Westmacott
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I added briefly the other arguments about the need to avoid compelling the IFI to establish a separate branch in the US and for any initiative on Fair Employment to apply equally to the Republic and Northern Ireland.

Nancy Soderberg said that it was helpful to have the announcement of a well thought out and to know that we attached importance to the issue. She had never thought the MacBride campaign well founded. But the fact remained that it had

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