

CONFIDENTIAL

cc Mr. Jackling

(4)

MR. COLES *AL 1/6*

Prime Minister

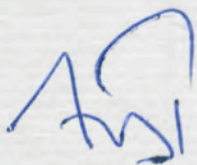
THE NEW IRISH AMBASSADOR

The FCO told me yesterday that the Irish Government have proposed Noel Dorr, my Irish colleague in New York, to succeed the present Irish Ambassador in London!

Noel Dorr's behaviour during the Falklands Crisis was intolerable, and I left him in no doubt as to what I thought of him. He was also a boring, long-winded and irritating member of the Security Council in other respects. Dorr originally trained for the Priesthood. He is a prig who manages to give the infuriating impression that he is in sole and permanent possession of the high moral ground.

Having said all this, I do not think that we should try to persuade the Irish to nominate someone else. Dorr has considerable advantages to offset his failings. He is intelligent and experienced in EC questions. He was the Irish Political Director before going to New York. He is also extremely sound on Anglo-Irish relations, particularly in the Northern Ireland context. In New York, he was a consistent and courageous opponent of Noraid and the rest of the Irish Lobby. Being myself an Anglo-Irishman, I used to have long talks with him about the problem and always found his views most reasonable. I am confident that he will not make problems for us here. Apart from anything else, he is a quiet and private man and is not the kind of person who would go around stirring up the Irish community in Britain.

Since I left New York, he has got married - something which I would have thought most improbable. The change can only improve him.



A.D. PARSONS
15 June 1983

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