



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

The main points

are:

(i) to get him to admit that Senate hearings on Northern Ireland would benefit PIRA and their supporters.

(ii) make clear that there is nothing to fear from a modern revival of WEU: its intended to strengthen the Alliance not divide it.

CDP

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 November, 1984

Dear Charles,

Meeting with Senator Hatch

The Prime Minister has agreed to see Senator Hatch at 1045 am on Tuesday 13 November. The Senator will be accompanied by the US Ambassador, Mr Price.

FLAG A /  
FLAG B /  
The main purpose of the meeting from our point of view will be to ride Senator Hatch off his commitment to the Irish National Caucus to hold a Senate hearing on Northern Ireland. I attach Points to Make and Essential Facts on this subject. The Prime Minister may also wish to seek Senator Hatch's views on the outcome of last week's Congressional elections; I attach Essential Facts.

As the Prime Minister may know, Senator Hatch holds strong views on East/West relations and defence issues; he was a leading opponent of the SALT II treaty and has been highly critical of the Soviet record of compliance with arms control agreements. He is also a strong supporter of the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Today's American edition of the Wall Street Journal contains a major article by Senator Hatch in which he argues that the revival of the WEU may drive a wedge between Europe and US and so weaken NATO. If opportunity offers, it would be useful if the Prime Minister could make clear that UK policy on WEU has been based on the principle of strengthening the European contribution to the Alliance, and that we are taking great care to ensure that the present revival will not damage relations with the US.

FLAG C /  
A personality note on Senator Hatch is also enclosed.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY SENATOR HATCH; 10.45 am 13 NOVEMBER

Points to Make

1. Grateful for the stand being taken by President Reagan and leading members of Congress against terrorists and those who finance terrorists.
2. Northern Ireland's problem fundamentally that of a divided society. Progress must come from agreement between these communities, with co-operation between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Relations with the Republic are close.
3. Sincerely hope it will be possible to avoid Congressional hearings on Northern Ireland at this stage. They would be likely to fuel unrealistic expectations of greater US involvement within the minority community in Northern Ireland and cause serious offence to the loyalist majority. Progress would be more difficult.

And anyway it's an internal matter & not  
for the US congress to hold enquiries on  
our affairs.

CDP

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CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY SENATOR HATCH; 10.45 AM 13 NOVEMBER

Essential Facts

1. Senator Hatch has been approached by the Irish National Caucus, an Irish American pressure group, and has agreed to hold hearings as Chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Following discreet lobbying by our Embassy and the Irish Embassy he appears to realise that hearings will be unhelpful: however, he may find it difficult to get out of his undertaking. The Irish invited him to Dublin as a way of educating him on Irish realities and then Northern Ireland Office saw advantages in suggesting a Belfast detour for the same reason. In addition we hope that the visit may offer him a means of getting off the hook by enabling him to say that he has gone to the trouble of looking into the issues for himself. It is important that Congressional hearings on Northern Ireland are avoided. H M Ambassador in Washington is reasonably confident that Senator Hatch's calls on the Prime Minister and the Northern Ireland Secretary, plus briefing at a high level in London and Belfast, will persuade Senator Hatch to abandon his hearing.

2. Senator Hatch himself has assured the Embassy of the strength of his antipathy towards terrorism and indeed this is to be expected from his political background. Nonetheless, while he is generally regarded as well-intentioned towards the United Kingdom, he is also seen as something of an activist and a maverick. The Irish National Caucus (INC) is a Washington based Irish Republican pressure group run by a Northern Ireland priest, Fr Sean McManus. The INC has been an active lobby, often associated with Congressman Biaggi's Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Ireland. It claims to be opposed to terrorism but is in practice equivocal about PIRA. It has campaigned about alleged discrimination in employment in Northern



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Ireland and tried unsuccessfully to prevent Shorts winning a large USAF contract earlier this year.

3. We and the Irish have long resisted attempts to have Congressional hearings on the grounds that they would provide an easy and high-profile platform for such groups as NORAID and the INC to exploit, that they would serve no useful purpose and would be regarded as provocative in Northern Ireland.

North America Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
12 November 1984

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CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER  
13 NOVEMBER

SENATOR HATCH AT 1045 AM ON

THE US ELECTIONS: ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Presidential Election: President Reagan 525 Electoral College votes (a record); Mr Mondale 13 (Washington DC and Minnesota, his home State). Popular vote Reagan 59%; Mondale 41% - among the highest majorities on record.

2. House of Representatives.

All 435 seats contested. Results provisional for 3 seats.

Democrats:	252	Previously Democrats	267
Republicans:	183	Republicans	167

3. Senate.

33 seats contested: Republicans 17: Democrats 16

Position in new Senate:

Republicans	53	Previously Republicans	55
Democrats	47	Democrats	47

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SENATOR ORRIN HATCH

(Republican - Utah)

Chairman, Senate Labour & Human Resources Committee

Born in Pittsburgh in 1934, he paid his way through Brigham Young University (BSc) and the University of Pittsburgh (LLB). He practised law in Salt Lake City before deciding to enter politics. An unknown, he won a surprise victory in the 1976 senate elections over the incumbent but ageing liberal Democrat, Frank Moss on an anti-Washington, strongly Reaganite, platform.

He is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Labour and Human Resources, and a member of the Committees on the Budget, Judiciary and Agriculture. He is due for re-election in 1988.

A strong conservative, Hatch was the architect of a filibuster which effectively destroyed the Labour Law Revision Bill, although he claims he is not anti-union. An opponent of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Married with six children, he is a Mormon

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