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PRIME MINISTER

c.c. Mr Alison  
Mr Ingham  
Mr Powell

Enoch Powell has sent you a copy of the speech he is making tomorrow evening, Friday, 17th January.

In it he claims that you have been blackmailed by the Americans into promising that Sikorsky should be the Westlands choice!!!

*Shana*

PP STEPHEN SHERBOURNE  
16.1.86

Extract from a speech by the Rt Hon. J. Enoch Powell, MBE,  
to an Election Meeting at the Leisure Centre, Newcastle,  
Co. Down, at 8 p.m., Friday, 17th ~~June~~ <sup>January</sup> 1986.

Who would have thought that the Westland Helicopter affair would turn up precisely during the Ulster by-elections to cast a shaft of light upon the Anglo-Irish Agreement? In the immortal words of Tess of the D'Urbervilles "'Tis just the same". The identity emerges from certain American warnings and recriminations which have been conveniently leaking out.

If Sikorsky was not to be the choice for Westland, all kinds of lucrative defence contracts that might otherwise have come to Britain would be withheld. So the pretty little picture builds up. The Prime Minister was blackmailed by the Americans into promising that Sikorsky should be the Westland choice. She dared not, however, disclose, even to the Cabinet, let alone to the public, under what duress she was interfering in the decision of a private company: it would be too humiliating for the Queen's Chief Minister to confess that she and the Government are manipulated by American blackmail.

There had therefore to be a cover story for public consumption: true to the pure principles of capitalism, the Government would not interfere with the decision of the shareholders. But, meanwhile, a luckless Minister, not fully into the secret of the blackmail, must be entrusted with the task of browbeating the Board of the company in private with vague talk about the national interest. The dodge could have worked, and very nearly did; only that the Secretary of State for Defence was not made, or not made early enough, a party to the plot, and went and got himself up to the knees in a European alternative.

So what relevance has this to the miserable event at Hillsborough on 15th November, when the Prime Minister with as much relish as if she had been eating wormwood signed an agreement to give the Irish Republic an unprecedented role in the internal government of a part



of the United Kingdom? It so happens that the Americans have also been threatening the Irish government with dire punishment unless it joins Reagan in imposing sanctions on Libya. The punishment is noteworthy. The Republic will not be given its share of the large American grant promised to what are called "both parts of Ireland" in consideration of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

So the Agreement was made in pursuance of a deal by the British and Irish governments with the U.S.A. under which, if they made an agreement about Ulster satisfactory to America, a handsome bribe, dressed up as economic aid, should be forthcoming for each of them. They made the Agreement all right. And now comes the United States and tries to blackmail the Republic into imposing sanctions on Libya by threatening to withhold the promised bribe. That may well be the dirtiest trick since Wotan tried to cheat the giants who built Valhalla for him; but, dirty or not, it is deeply instructive.

First, it proves that the motivation for Britain's capitulation at Hillsborough was the desire to gain American favour or escape American sanctions. The deal was procured by American bribery and American blackmail. All that business about reconciling what are called "the two communities" in Ulster and combating terrorism was simply cover story to amuse the innocent lobby fodder in the House of Commons and give the Press something sentimental to scribble. We have not of course necessarily learnt what other bribes were offered nor the nature of the blackmail exerted over Britain by the United States. All we know is that it was strong enough to break the Prime Minister's attempt to insist, up to a late stage in the negotiations, on the Republic renouncing its constitutional claim to the territory of Northern Ireland. The accord had to be made, the terms dictated by the Republic with American backing had to be swallowed.

The second lesson for us in this little episode is that there is not necessarily any direct connection between the means of extortion

which America employs and the objectives which they are used to extort. The American blackmail used to extort the Anglo-Irish Agreement and thus, so the U.S.A. imagines, open the way to an Ireland in the Western Alliance need not have had anything to do with Ulster itself: they could have involved quite other areas in which America can squeeze or frighten Britain - just as Star Wars contracts can be used to further the American helicopter industry, just as economic aid to the Irish Republic can be withheld to secure sanctions against Libya. The brutal cynicism of the United States is not particular about the choice of weapons.

There is a current mood for demanding candour from Her Majesty's Government. When the critics have got tired of hunting the Sikorsky trail, they could do worse than turn the same pack of hounds on to a bigger quarry. What, we are entitled to be told, was the nature of the inducements or the threats, or both, which constrains Mrs Thatcher to assist the United States, if I may use an apt formulation of a recent press report from Dublin, in "buying out Eire neutrality at the expense of Ulster"? The answer could be quite important.