

STATE PAPERS Belfast and Dublin

Derry/Londonderry controversy surfaces



■ **PROTEST:** Gregory Campbell protested about the use of the word Derry in a job advertisement

THE controversy over the use of the terms 'Derry' and 'Londonderry' surfaces in this year's releases from Belfast.

Following the British government's decision to permit the changing of the name of the local authority to Derry City Council in 1985, the council's town clerk, Colm Geary was instructed to write to secretary of state Douglas Hurd requesting that staff in government departments should be allowed to use either Derry or Londonderry in official correspondence.

In response to the council's demand, 'Londonderry Unionist Association' said it reinforced the claim for a separate district council for the (mainly Protestant) East Bank of the Foyle.

Responding, Pat Carvill, a Stormont official said its real effect was to force council staff and the public to indicate where they stood on the name-change issue.

As such, its effect would be divisive. His advice was that government bodies should employ the current terminology, using Derry City Council but Londonderry as the postal address.

The controversy over the city's

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— Gregory Campbell

name re-surfaced the following year in the DUP representative for the city, Gregory Campbell who protested to David Fell, the permanent secretary at the Department of Economic Development in Stormont about the use of the word Derry in a job advertisement for the Shantallow Area Workshop.

Writing on April 22 1986, Mr Campbell told the official: "As you are probably aware, the way in which advertisements are worded can very often affect the type of people who apply. An ad placed in Londonderry with the term 'Derry' is virtually cer-

tain to preclude many Protestants from applying."

In this case it suggested that the business in question was exclusively Catholic.

He went on: "Whether or not this is the case I feel a workshop sponsored by the DED ought not to have an incorrect or politically motivated version of the city's name in the advertisement."

He asked if action could be taken by the department or if he should refer the case to the Fair Employment Agency for investigation.

In a minute on the file, Trevor Pearson of the Stormont Central Secretariat commented on April 30, 1986: "The issue of the use of Derry or Londonderry drags on interminably. The government position is simply that the correct address is Londonderry and that Derry is used only when referring to the council."

"In the case of bodies funded from public money it is more difficult to apply the policy. If a body insists on using Derry as its postal address, the only sanction which the DED can impose is the cutting-off of funds."

He very much doubted if any government department would wish to contemplate such drastic action.

NIO was concerned about council tension after Enniskillen bomb

MOUNTING tensions involving unionist and Sinn Féin councillors in council chambers in the wake of the IRA 'Poppy Day' bomb in Enniskillen in 1987 concerned the NIO.

In a minute to direct rule ministers, Brian Mawhinney and Richard Needham, dated December 2, 1987, J D McConnell of the Political Affairs Division of the NIO reported that a recent meeting of Belfast City Council "was marked by a fracas as a group of eight Sinn Féin councillors were confronted by very angry unionist members. Initially both sides exchanged insults but pushing and shoving moved quickly to a scene of flying fists."

Attempts by the lord mayor to restore order failed and in the end the movement to adjourn was passed. As councillors blamed each other for the trouble, the council clerk Cecil Ward contacted the NIO. He indicated that the unionist action was not pre-planned "but was a spontaneous reaction to the arrival of the Sinn Féin councillors". Ward was, McConnell reported to ministers, very concerned that the situation



■ **'VERY DISTURBING SITUATION':** Brian Mawhinney was advised about clashes in council meetings

would deteriorate further. McConnell wrote: "This is clearly a very disturbing situation ... because it follows closely on the heels of a verbal clash (bordering on an exchange of blows)

between William McCrea (DUP) and John Davey (Sinn Féin) in Magherafelt council chamber." The official feared that such confrontations would become more frequent.

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