

*Irland*

NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES 18

**IMMEDIATE**

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HD/NEWS DEPT		MR BUXTON
	CABINET OFFICE	SIR R ARMSTRONG
		DIO

~~NO 10 DOWNING STREET~~

OO FCO DESKBY 01:1600Z

OO NIO (BELFAST) DESKBY 01:1600Z

OO TFCRELAY

GRPS 240

K O N F I D E N T I A L

FM DUBLIN 01:1515Z JULY 1981

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 01:1600Z FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 223 OF 1 JULY 1981

AND TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 01:1600Z NIO(BELFAST)

MY TELNO 221: HUNGER STRIKE

**IMMEDIATE**

1. THE TAOISEACH SUMMONED ME AT 3.10PM THIS AFTERNOON. THE TANAISTE MR O'LEARY WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. DR FITZGERALD SPOKE IN MUCH THE SAME TERMS AS BISHOP O'MAHONY. HE SAID THAT THE HUNGER STRIKE WAS NOW AT A VERY CRITICAL STAGE AND THERE WAS PROBABLY NO BETTER MOMENT TO SOLVE IT. THE FAMILIES WERE STANDING UP WELL AGAINST IRA PRESSURE. WE SIMPLY MUST GIVE THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE WHAT HELP WE COULD. HE ASKED US MOST EARNESTLY TO SEE THAT THEY MET AGAIN WITH MR ALLISON WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DELAY AND THEN HAD ACCESS TO THE STRIKERS AND PRISONERS.

3. HE ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT THE STRIKERS WERE WELL AWARE OF WHAT THEY REGARDED AS DRINKMANSHIP ON OUR PART WHEN THE LAST

3. HE ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT THE STRIKERS WERE WELL AWARE OF WHAT THEY REGARDED AS BRINKMANSHIP ON OUR PART WHEN THE LAST STRIKE ENDED. WE MUST GET THE COMMISSION MOVING AGAIN BEFORE MCDONNELL DETERIORATED MUCH FURTHER. HE MADE TWO FURTHER POINTS OF INTEREST. FIRST, THAT THE STATEMENT BY PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN THAT MR ATKIN'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY WAS INSUFFICIENT DID NOT REFLECT THE PRISONERS' VIEWS. SECOND, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT GERRY ADAMS SHOULD REMAIN ON THE SCENE FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS (THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS WAS NOT EXPLAINED).

4. DR FITZGERALD HAS MADE A VERY STRONG APPROACH TO US ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION. WHILE WE MAY NOT AGREE WITH HIM ABOUT THEIR IMPORTANCE WE SHOULD NOT REFUSE WHAT HE ASKS. IF WE TURN DOWN HIS REQUEST WE SHALL GET OFF TO A BAD START HERE.

FIGG

NNNNN

IMMEDIATE

SENT/RECD JAT 01:1536Z CB/MCH

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17.18

*etc Press*

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NO 10 DOWNING STREET

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM DUBLIN 010800Z JULY  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 221 OF 01 JULY 1981

AND TO IMMEDIATE N I O (B)

1. BISHOP O'MAHONY OF THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE TELEPHONED ME LATE LAST NIGHT. FOLLOWING MR ATKINS' STATEMENT THE COMMISSION WANTED A VERY EARLY MEETING WITH MR ALLISON TO CLARIFY CERTAIN POINTS. IN VIEW OF MC DONNELL'S DETERIORATING CONDITION THEY WANTED TO MOVE QUICKLY AND THE BISHOP WAS DISMAYED THAT MR ALLISON COULD NOT SEE THEM BEFORE FRIDAY. HE ASKED MY SUPPORT TO ARRANGE AN EARLIER MEETING.

2. I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS NO MORE THAT WE WISH TO SAY TO THE COMMISSION AT THE MOMENT. BUT THEY ARE SUCH A WELL KNOWN AND ESTEEMED BODY THAT I THINK THERE IS A STRONG CASE FOR SEEING THEM QUICKLY, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO STONEWALL. IT WOULD SURELY BE AGAINST OUR INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY WITH A NEW GOVERNMENT HERE, IF A STORY GOT AROUND THAT WE WERE NOW REFUSING TO SEE THE COMMISSION.

FIGG.