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IMMEDIATE

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~~MR FERGUSON~~  
Lord N Gordon-Lennox  
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NEWS DEPT

N IRELAND OFFICE - PS TO SEC OF STATE  
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CABINET OFFICE - SIR J HUNT  
Mr R Wade-Gery.  
DIO  
NO 10 DOWNING STREET

~~MR FERGUSON~~ *MR. BULLARD*

.....  
.....

~~RESIDENT OFFICER~~

*Mr Lynch appears to have kept, so far,  
his side of the agreement on the presentation  
of the meeting.*  
*Prime Minister* *6/9*

UNCLASSIFIED  
FM DUBLIN 061055Z SEPTEMBER 79  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 260 OF 6 SEPTEMBER  
AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST  
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, BIS NEW YORK, MODUK

*Two*

MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR LYNCH :  
PRESS REACTIONS

1. YESTERDAY'S MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR LYNCH FOLLOWING THE CEREMONIAL FUNERAL OF LORD MOUNTBATTEN, IS THE LEAD STORY AND ATTRACTS EDITORIAL COMMENT IN ALL THREE DUBLIN DAILIES. THE TONE OF THE REPORTS IS FAIRLY LOW-KEY, REFLECTING THE LACK OF DETAILED INFORMATION RELEASED TO THE PRESS. IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WAYS OF IMPROVING SECURITY COOPERATION DOMINATED THE MEETING, AND THERE IS SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT MR LYNCH APPEARS TO HAVE MADE

IS SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT MR LYNCH APPEARS TO HAVE MADE LITTLE PROGRESS IN PRESSING FOR A NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVE. HOWEVER, IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ON A FRIENDLY BASIS: THE IRISH TIMES QUOTES MR LYNCH AS SAYING: "I AM PERFECTLY SATISFIED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE STANDARD, THE LEVEL OR THE CORDIALITY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES". THE REPORTS INDICATE THAT MR LYNCH RULED OUT ANY QUESTION OF "HOT PURSUIT" BY BRITISH SECURITY FORCES OVER THE BORDER AND HE ALSO REFUSED TO GIVE WAY ON THE EXTRADITION ISSUE.

2. THE EDITORIAL COMMENT IS SUBDUED. THE IRISH INDEPENDENT SUMS UP THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS: "NO POLITICAL INITIATIVE FOR THE TIME BEING, MORE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND A TIGHTENING UP OF SECURITY MEASURES". THE IRISH TIMES ADOPTS A SLIGHTLY MORE SCEPTICAL AIR: "NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL YET APPEARS TO HAVE EMERGED FROM THE MEETING". THE EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT BOTH SIDES CAN PUT THEIR OWN GLOSS ON THE AGREED COMMUNIQUE, AND CONCLUDES WITH THE FAMILIAR THOUGHT THAT "A THOUSAND SECURITY INITIATIVES WILL NOT BRING A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT".

3. THE IRISH PRESS EDITORIAL, HEADLINED "LITTLE JOY FROM DOWNING STREET", APPEARS PARTICULARLY DOWNCAST: "THE TAOISEACH WAS AT A HEAVY PSYCHOLOGICAL DISADVANTAGE COMING INTO DOWNING STREET ..... ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE FUNERAL OF ONE OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY KILLED BY IRISH ASSASSINS". IT CLAIMS THAT "IT WAS OBVIOUSLY A STERN UPHILL FIGHT TO TRY TO ADVANCE THE NEED FOR DEALING WITH THE CAUSE OF THE SITUATION WHICH PRODUCED LORD MOUNTBATTEN'S MURDER RATHER THAN THE EFFECTS .....". THE EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT WHAT SEEMS TO BE EMERGING FROM THE MEETING IS AN EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT THE CRIMINAL LAW JURISDICTION ACT WHICH WILL INVOLVE, PRESUMABLY, "TRYING TO FIND SOME FORMULA TO ENGAGE THE SECURITY FORCES OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN THESE CASES SINCE, WITHOUT THEIR EVIDENCE IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW CASES CAN BE BROUGHT UNDER THIS LAW". THE IRISH PRESS BITTERLY CONCLUDES THAT MR LYNCH, AFTER A MORNING SPENT IN UNDERGOING THE POWERFUL EMOTIONAL EFFECT OF BRITISH STATE CEREMONIAL AT ITS MOST IMPRESSIVE, WAS FACED "WITH THE SOUL DESTROYING TASK OF TRYING TO GET THE VISION AND WILL REQUIRED FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION FROM A GOVERNMENT IMPLACABLY BENT ON SEEING IT AS A SECURITY MATTER ONLY".