

6 PS
3 PS/LPS
PS/PUS
MR BULLARD
MR FERGUSSON
HD/RID
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HD/NEWS DEPT

N IRELAND OFFICE - PS TO SEC OF STATE
RM 66 A/2 GGS

N IRELAND OFFICE [4 copies]

SIR K STOWE
MR MORIATY
MR MARSHALL
MR BUXTON

CABINET OFFICE - SIR R ARMSTRONG
DIO

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

GRS 500

CONFIDENTIAL

FM DUBLIN 241515Z JULY 1981

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 259 OF 24 JULY

AND TO IMMEDIATE N I O (BELFAST)

MY TELNO 258 : HUNGER STRIKE

Prime Minister

The advice going to Mr Atkins is that his personal staff should be instructed to tell the Irish that we cannot agree to allow MacFarlane to attend a meeting between the prisoners and NIO officials on the basis that he could not speak. There could in practice be no way of stopping him interrupting the meeting if he so wished or, indeed, of preventing him interrupting the hunger strikers without speaking. This would prove to be highly intimidating for them.

AKH
24vii

1. AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 2 OF MY T U R, PROFESSOR DOOGE SPOKE TO ME ABOUT THE REPORTS IN THE NEWSPAPERS WHICH HE SAID "WERE CONFIRMED WITH THE N I O" THAT MACFARLANE WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN INACTIVE ROLE IN A MEETING WITH HUNGER STRIKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. HE GAVE ME A COPY OF HIS SPEAKING NOTES WHICH ARE IN MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.

2. ON THE PROPOSED MEETING WHICH HAD ORIGINATED WITH COUNCILLOR CANNING OF DUNGANNON, I SAID THAT THE IRISH NEWS OF TODAY HAD REPORTED HIM AS SAYING THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD

BE NO USE UNLESS THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES WERE PREPARED TO GO FURTHER THAN THEY HAD PUBLICLY SAID THEY WOULD. PROFESSOR DOOGE ACCEPTED THIS AND SAID THAT THEY HAD HEARD THIS FROM THE N I O THIS MORNING.

3. ON THE OTHER POINTS MADE IN THE SPEAKING NOTE, I MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:-

(A) TO ACCEPT A MEETING WITH EVEN A MUTE MACFARLANE WHICH CAME TO NOTHING COULD PUT US IN A WORSE POSITION THAN BEFORE.

(B) THE PROVISIONALS KNEW WELL WHAT WAS ON OFFER AND SO DID MACFARLANE. IF CLARIFICATION ONLY WERE NEEDED, HIS PRESENCE WAS NOT NECESSARY SEMICOLON

(C) THE I C J P PROPOSALS HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE PRISONERS AS AN UNACCEPTABLE DILUTION OF THEIR DEMANDS. PROFESSOR DOOGE DID NOT CONTEST ANY OF THESE POINTS. HE SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE AGAIN THE POINT THAT MACFARLANE'S POSITION AS NOW REPORTED TAKEN WITH THE PRISONERS' STATEMENT OF 4 JULY. SEEMED TO BE SOME SLIGHT ADVANCE AND WE SHOULD FOLLOW IT UP.

4. I KNOW THE DIFFICULTIES ABOUT HAVING A MEETING WITH MACFARLANE. HOWEVER I THINK IT WORTH CONSIDERING HOW GREATLY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME IT IF WE FOLLOWED IT UP FAIRLY QUICKLY. WE SHOULD GAIN ENORMOUS CREDIT. IT IS OF COURSE ARGUABLE HOW MUCH THIS MATTERS TO US. BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AFTER DOHERTY AND LYNCH DIE. IF THE HUNGER STRIKE CONTINUES WITH NO SIGN OF A BREAK WE MAY NEED CREDIT WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT. I THINK WE OUGHT TO CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY WHERE THE BALANCE OF ADVANTAGE MAY LIE.

5. I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT PROFESSOR DOOGE SAID THAT THE STEWART DALBY ARTICLE (PARA 3 OF MY T U R) IN NO WAY REFLECTED THE ATTITUDE OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER DALBY HAD SEEN THE TAOISEACH PERSONALLY BUT HE DID KNOW THAT A THIRD PERSON HAD GIVEN SOME BAD BRIEFING.)HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN BOTHERED BY SOME INACCURATE ACCOUNTS IN THE PRESS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS ABOUT WHAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT THOUGHT. HE SAID THAT THE REPORTING IN TODAY'S IRISH PAPERS WAS MUCH BETTER. THIS IS A GREAT RELIEF. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO FOLLOW UP WITH DALBY, IT MIGHT MAKE MATTERS WORSE.

FIGG

PM



10 DOWNING STREET

N. Ireland.

Prof. Dooce suggested to
Mr Figg that we should agree
to MacFarlane's presence at a
meeting with the hunger strikers
if he undertook to remain
mute. I have agreed with
the NIO that this suggestion
should be politely but firmly
rejected - and soon.

Paul Hunt

NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES

18 119

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HD/RID MR MARSHALL

HD/PUSD (2) MR BUXTON

HD/INF CABINET OFFICE - SIR R ARMSTRONG

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... ..
... ..
NO 10 DOWNING STREET

~~RESIDENT OFFICE~~

IMMEDIATE

GRPS 250

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

FM DUBLIN 24:1130Z JULY 1981

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY FCO 24:1300Z

TELEGRAM NUMBER 258 OF 24 JULY 1981

AND TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY NIC(B) 24:1300Z

ADVANCE COPIES

HUNGER STRIKE

1. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SEE PROFESSOR DOOGE AT 3PM THIS AFTERNOON. MR NELIGAN TOLD ME THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER-DESIGNATE WOULD NOT BE HANDING ME ANY WRITTEN COMMUNICATION BUT SIMPLY WISHED TO PASS ME SOMETHING ORALLY.

2. IT IS DIFFICULT TO READ THE MIND OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE HUNGER STRIKE AND OUR POLICY ON IT. THE STATEMENT EARLIER IN THE WEEK BY THE TAOISEACH THAT THEY HAD DONE ALL THEY COULD TO PROMOTE AN END TO THE HUNGER STRIKE SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE SEEN AS AN INDICATION THAT THEY THINK WE HAVE DONE ALL WE COULD. AS I SUGGESTED IN MY TELNO 248, PROFESSOR DOOGE SAID THAT OUR RELATIONS WOULD SUFFER IF WE DID NOT USE MORE IMAGINATION IN THE MATTER OF BRENDAN MACFARLANE. WE HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING ON THIS FRONT AND OF COURSE THERE ARE GOOD REASONS WHY NOT. BUT IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF HE RESUMED THIS LINE.

AS I SUGGESTED IN MY TELNO 248, PROFESSOR DOOGE SAID THAT OUR RELATIONS WOULD SUFFER IF WE DID NOT USE MORE IMAGINATION IN THE MATTER OF BRENDAN MACFARLANE. WE HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING ON THE FRONT AND OF COURSE THERE ARE GOOD REASONS WHY NOT. BUT IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF HE RESUMED THIS LINE.

3. AN INDICATION THAT OUR RELATIONS MAY NOT BE AS GOOD AS WE THINK IS THAT STEWART DALBY, WHO HAD A RATHER DEPRESSING PIECE IN YESTERDAY'S FINANCIAL TIMES, TOLD BARNEY SMITH THAT HE HAD WRITTEN IT HAVING BEEN BRIEFED PERSONALLY BY THE TAOISEACH. I SUPPOSE WE MAY THEREFORE EXPECT DR KENNEDY TO BE RECALLED WHEN DOHERTY DIES.

4. I WILL OF COURSE REPORT BY TELEGRAM AT ONCE FOLLOWING MY MEETING WITH PROFESSOR DOOGE BUT YOU MAY CARE TO HAVE THIS QUICK INTIMATION THAT OUR WICKET MAY NOT BE AS GOOD AS WE THINK.

FIGG

NNNN

SENT/RECD THREE AT 24:1155Z CB/IA