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TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 33 OF 1 JUNE

MIPT : ANGLO-IRISH JOINT STUDIES

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS IN QUESTION:-

FROM REPLY TO FOUR HORSEMEN:

'THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH FOR WAYS IN WHICH THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND CAN ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN AFFAIRS, THROUGH POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN WHICH ALL THE SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE. IT BELIEVES THAT THE BEST HOPE STILL FOR LONG TERM PEACE AND STABILITY IS TO BE FOUND IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, NOT IN VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION. AND THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS DETERMINED TO BUILD ON THE UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP THAT ALREADY EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THESE ISLANDS.'

FROM PERTH SPEECH:-

'WE RECOGNISE, OF COURSE, THAT OUR NEIGHBOURS SOUTH OF THE BORDER, THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH. THAT IS WHY OVER THE LAST YEAR OR MORE WE HAVE JOINED IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LONDON AND DUBLIN. WE BOTH HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM WORKING MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER. ABOVE ALL, WE HAVE AN OVERRIDING AND SHARED INTEREST IN SECURING PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND.'

FROM PARLIAMENT, 8 MAY:-

'WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HAVE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION WITH OUR NEIGHBOUR THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, SOUTH OF THE BORDER.'

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TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 87 OF 1 JUNE

ANGLO-IRISH JOINT STUDIES

1. MINISTERS HAVE AGREED THAT WHEN THE IRISH WANT IT THEY CAN NOW BE GIVEN THE BRITISH DRAFTING MATERIAL PROMISED. THIS COMPRISES DRAFTS OF THE REPORTS TO THE STEERING GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES, CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS AND SECURITY: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DRAFT REPORTS ON MEMU AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION: AND A COMMENTARY ON THE IRISH PAPER ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. THIS MATERIAL IS BEING DESPATCHED TO YOU BY BAG TOMORROW, 2 JUNE.
2. BUT WE SHOULD PREFER NOT TO HAND IT OVER UNTIL AFTER 11 JUNE. ARMSTRONG OR MADE-GERY WILL THEREFORE SPEAK TO NALLY BY TELEPHONE AS SOON AS HE CAN BE REACHED (WHICH MAY WELL BE TOMORROW BECAUSE OF THE IRISH PUBLIC HOLIDAY TODAY) TO TRY AND PERSUADE HIM THAT THERE IS LITTLE POINT IN OUR PRODUCING THE MATERIAL UNTIL THE ELECTION IS OVER. BUT IF THIS ATTEMPT FAILS (AS SEEMS LIKELY) NALLY WILL BE TOLD THAT YOU WILL BE HANDING OVER THE MATERIAL FORTHWITH.
3. WE SHALL INSTRUCT YOU ACCORDINGLY. IF AND WHEN YOU DO HAND OVER THE MATERIAL, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.
 - (A) WE REGRET THE TIME IT HAS TAKEN TO PRODUCE OUR CONTRIBUTIONS. MANY OF THE OFFICIALS CONCERNED HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY STRETCHED BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.
 - (B) WE ARE CONSCIOUS THAT THE IRISH MAY FIND OUR DRAFTS, PARTICULARLY THAT ON STRUCTURES, LESS POSITIVE THAN THEY MIGHT HAVE WISHED. THEY SHOULD NOT INTERPRET

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THIS AS REFLECTING A LACK OF INTEREST IN THE JOINT STUDIES. THE IRISH WILL HAVE NOTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT REFERENCES TO ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS, IN PARTICULAR HER REPLY TO THE FOUR HORSEMEN, AND IN HER SPEECHES IN PARLIAMENT ON 7 MAY AND IN PERTH ON 8 MAY (EXCERPTS IN MIFT). THEY MADE CLEAR HMG'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE DUBLIN SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE. EVENTS IN THE NORTH HAVE MADE CLOSER ANGLO-IRISH UNDERSTANDING MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER.

(C) BUT THE PRESENT SITUATION REQUIRES US TO PROCEED WITH PARTICULAR CAUTION IF THE AIMS OF THE JOINT STUDIES ARE TO BE ACHIEVED. IT WOULD SERVE NO-ONE'S PURPOSE BUT THE TERRORISTS TO INFLAME PROTESTANT SUSPICIONS.

(D) THE IRISH WILL REMEMBER THAT THE NAME OF THE PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE WAS A POINT OF PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY WHEN WE LAST TALKED. WE HAD SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT USING THE WORD 'COUNCIL'. BUT IN THE LIGHT OF THE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE WHICH THE IRISH CLEARLY ATTACH TO THAT TERM WE HAVE ACCEPTED ITS USE, DESPITE OUR CONCERN ABOUT ITS OVERTONES. ON OUR SIDE THERE WILL BE PUBLIC OPINION DANGERS IN THIS. HENCE OUR NEED FOR THE REPORT TO BE PRETTY DEADPAN AS REGARDS SOME OTHER ASPECTS, EG A POSSIBLE PARLIAMENTARY STRUCTURE. IT WOULD NOT BE SENSIBLE OF US TO RUN RISKS IN TOO MANY AREAS AT ONCE. BETTER TAKE ONE PACE FORWARD AND STICK TO IT THAN TRY TWO AND BE FORCED BY THE OUTCRY TO TAKE THREE PACES BACKWARDS.

(E) IN SUM WE HAVE NO WISH TO PUT THE STUDIES IN BAULK, BUT TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES IT IS IN THE COMMON INTEREST THAT WE PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

4. SEE MIFT.

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