

NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES

18

PS N IRELAND OFFICE - PS TO SEC OF STATE
RM 66 A/2 GGS
PS/LPS
PS/PUS N IRELAND OFFICE [4 copies]
MR BULLARD
MR FERGUSSON SIR K STOWE
HD/RID MR MORIATY
HD/PUSD (2) MR MARSHALL
HD/IPD MR BUXTON
HD/NEWS DEPT CABINET OFFICE - SIR R ARMSTRONG
DIO
.....
NO 10 DOWNING STREET ✓
.....

RESIDENT CLERK

GROUPS 320
RESTRICTED
FROM DUBLIN 101205Z JULY 1981
TO IMMEDIATE F C (DESKBY 101300Z)
TELEGRAM NUMBER 253 OF 10 JULY

AND TO IMMEDIATE N I O (BELFAST)

MY TWO IPTS: HUNGER STRIKE, MEDIA REACTIONS.

1. AN INDICATION OF THE FEELING OF FRUSTRATION IN THE REPUBLIC ABOUT THE HUNGER STRIKE AND THE LIKELY CONSEQUENCES OF THIS CHANGE IN MOOD IS DEMONSTRATED BY AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S IRISH TIMES. THE ARTICLE STATES "ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS COULD BE SERIOUSLY HARMED UNLESS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MOVES QUICKLY TO END THE CURRENT IMPASSE OVER THE H BLOCK HUNGER STRIKE..... THERE IS A WIDESPREAD FEELING OF EXASPERATION IN DUBLIN AT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE LONDON AUTHORITIES RESPONDED TO THE EFFORTS BY THE COMMISSION TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION... THE VIEW IN DUBLIN CLOSELY CORRESPONDS WITH THE VERSION OF EVENTS PRESENTED BY THE COMMISSION IN THEIR STATEMENT. IN EFFECT THE GOVERNMENT HERE BELIEVES THE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS OF MR ALISON WERE THWARTED AT THE LAST MINUTE BY MR ATKINS AND MRS THATCHER." THE IRISH INDEPENDENT

IN THEIR STATEMENT. IN EFFECT THE GOVERNMENT HERE BELIEVES THE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS OF MR ALISON WERE THWARTED AT THE LAST MINUTE BY MR ATKINS AND MRS THATCHER. '' THE IRISH INDEPENDENT STATES: ''DR FITZGERALD WILL MEET MRS THATCHER SOON AS PART OF THE CONTINUING ANGLO-IRISH DISCUSSIONS, BUT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PAIR LAST NIGHT OVER THE H BLOCK ISSUE APPEARED TO BE DECIDEDLY ICY'' . THE FIANNA FAIL LEADER, MR HAUGHEY, IS QUOTED IN THE IRISH PRESS AS ''FULLY EMCEPTING'' THE ICJP'S VERSION OF RECENT DEVELOPEMENTS IN THE MAZE PRISON HUNGER STRIKE, AND SAYING THAT JOE MC DONNELL NEED NOT HAVE DIED.

2. FOR THE SECOND DAY RUNNING (SEE MY TELNO 229) THE IRISH TIMES CONTAINS AN EDITORIAL CRITICAL OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THE EDITORIAL SUGGESTS ''TO A QUITE EXTRAORDINARY EXTENT, MRS THATCHER PERSONALLY IS BEING BLAMED FOR THE FAILURE OF THE ATTEMPT TO END THE LONG KESH HUNGER STRIKE'', AND DESCRIBES THE DECISION TO SEND MR ALISON TO THE USA AS ''INEXPLICABLE''. IT REFLECTS ON ''THE DAMAGE BEING DONE TO ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS'', AND STATES: THOSE WHO ARGUE THAT TO CONCEDE THE LONG KESH PRISONERS' DEMANDS WOULD CONSTITUTE A PROPAGANDA VICTORY FOR THE PROVISIONAL IRA HAVE GOT IT THE WRONG WAY ROUND. THE DEATH OF JOE MC DONNELL , THE FAILURE OF THE ATTEMPTED SETTLEMENT, ABOVE ALL THE APPEARANCE OF BAD FAITH ON THE PART OF THE BRITISH: IT IS THESE THAT HAVE GIVEN THE PROVISIONALS A PROPAGANDA VICTORY.''

FIGG.

PARA 1 THIRD LAST LINE SHOULD READ '' FULLY ACCEPTING''

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 101248 ZHMT/AH

IMMEDIATE

NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES

18

IMMEDIATE

PS
PS/LPS
PS/PUS
MR BULLARD
MR FERGUSSON
HD/RID
HD/PUSD (2)
HD/IPD
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~~

OO F C O (DES^KBY 101200Z)

PP N I O (B)

IMMEDIATE

GROUPS 170

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM DUBLIN 101130Z JULY 1981

TO IMMEDIATE F C O (DESKBY 101200Z)

TELEGRAM NUMBER 232 OF 10 JULY

AND TO PRIORITY N I O (BELFAST)

MIPT: HUNGER STRIKE

1. MR NALLY SAID THAT IN THE CONVERSATION THE TAOISEACH HAD YESTERDAY WITH MR GALLAGHER AND MR LOGUE OF THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE THE DIFFICULTY ABOUT PRISON WORK WAS DISCUSSED. THE COMMISSION THOUGHT THAT THE PRISONERS' POSITION THAT THEY WILL DO NO WORK WHICH SUPPORTS THE PRISON SYSTEM MAY NOT BE AS DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME AS IT SEEMS. THEY THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING CLOSE TO THE FORMULA WHICH THEY PROPOSED IN THEIR STATEMENT OF 3 JUNE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE PROVIDED IT WAS EXPLAINED IN A DOCUMENT. THIS WOULD MEAN AN OFFICIAL GOING IN TO THE PRISON AND BEING PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS IF ONLY ON A YES AND NO BASIS.

2. HE MADE OTHER POINTS AS FOLLOWS. FIRST, IT WAS THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S UNDERSTANDING THAT UNLIKE THE HUNGER STRIKE BEFORE CHRISTMAS THE IMMINENCE OF A STRIKER'S DEATH HARDENS THE RESOLVE OF THE OTHERS. SECONDLY, POLITICAL STATUS NO LONGER SEEMS TO BE AN ISSUE AND IS NOT MENTIONED. THIRDLY, THE EFFECTS OF THE DEATHS AMONGST THE YOUNG IN WORKING-CLASS AREAS IN DUBLIN HAS LED TO CONSIDERABLE RECRUITMENT FOR THE I R A.

FIGG.

IMMEDIATE

NNNN

TWO SENT/RECD AT 101200Z HMT/WD.

IMMEDIATE

PS	N IRELAND OFFICE	- PS TO SEC OF STATE
PS/LPS		RM 66 A/2 GGS
PS/PUS	N IRELAND OFFICE	[4 copies]
MR BULLARD		
MR FERGUSSON		SIR K STOWE
HD/RID		MR MORIATY
HD/PUSD (2)		MR MARSHALL
HD/IPD		MR BUXTON
HD/NEWS DEPT	CABINET OFFICE	- SIR R ARMSTRONG
		DIO

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

~~REGISTER CLERK~~

GROUPS 275

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM DUBLIN 101100Z JULY 1981.
 TO IMMEDIATE F C O (DESKBY 101200Z)
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 231 OF 10 JULY
 AND TO PRIORITY N I O (BELFAST)

HUNGER STRIKE

1. I AM BECOMING INCREASINGLY WORRIED AT THE WAY IN WHICH OUR HANDLING OF THE HUNGER STRIKE IS BEING SEEN IN DUBLIN. THE TAOISEACH, MR HAUGHEY AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS NO LONGER SEE THE HUNGER STRIKE PROBLEM IN TERMS OF DANGEROUS CRIMINALS WITH WHOM IT IS NOT RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT ANY RESPONSIBLE OPINION HAS AN EXCUSE FOR I R A CRIMES. BUT THE FACT THAT MEN ARE PREPARED TO GO ON DYING ARE MAKING A LOT OF PEOPLE WONDER WHETHER WE HAVE GOT THINGS RIGHT.

2. WE HAVE BEEN DOING WHAT WE CAN TO CORRECT THE MISUNDERSTANDING WITH THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE AND THE EXPLANATIONS IN YOUR TELEGRAMS 540 AND 541 HAVE BEEN MOST USEFUL. BUT I DON'T THINK WE NEED BE TOO CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED. IT IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN THAT MATTERS.

3. BOTH MR HAUGHEY AND DR FITZGERALD HAVE SAID THAT IT IS UP TO THE MORE POWERFUL SIDE IN THE DISPUTE TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY, AND MANY HERE WOULD AGREE AND FEAR THAT WE MAY BE BOXING OURSELVES INTO A CORNER WITHOUT ROOM TO MANOUVER. THEY SEE THE STATEMENT OF 8 JULY AS NOT DIFFERING AT ALL IN SUBSTANCE FROM THE STATEMENT OF 19 DECEMBER. MEANWHILE WE HAVE HAD FIVE DEATHS. THE NEXT DEATH WILL PROBABLY BE KIERAN DOHERTY, A MEMBER OF THE DAIL. IF HE WERE TO DIE WITHOUT OUR HAVING BEEN SEEN TO MAKE A MUCH GREATER EFFORT TO END THE STRIKE THAN WE HAVE DONE HITHERTO, THE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING.

4. I APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING THE N I O AND IT NOT FOR ME TO SUGGEST HOW WE MIGHT PROCEED. BUT IT IS MY DUTY TO SAY THAT, SEEN FROM HERE, THE PRICE WE SHALL PAY FOR FUTURE DEATHS MAY BE MUCH HIGHER THAN WE THOUGHT AND PERHAPS MORE THAN WE CAN AFFORD.

5. PLEASE SEE MY I F T FOR SOME POINTS OF DETAIL MR NALLY MADE TO ME THIS MORNING ABOUT THE HUNGER STRIKE.

FIGG.

IMMEDIATE

NNNN