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FM DUBLIN 071640Z MAY 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 790F 7 MAY

AND TO NIO BELFAST

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Prime Minister

You are seeing Mr. Lynch  
for a brief working call  
on 10 May.

SM  
8/5

BRITAIN AND THE EEC

1. TODAY'S DUBLIN NEWSPAPERS ALL CARRY FRONT-PAGE REPORTS OF REMARKS WHICH THE TAOISEACH MADE TO NEWSMEN IN CORK ON 6 MAY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO INTRODUCE FIANNA FAIL CANDIDATES FOR THE FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. THERE IS NO TEXT OF MR LYNCH'S REMARKS.

2. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT WITH HINDSIGHT IT APPEARED TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT THAT GENERAL DE GAULLE WAS RIGHT IN 1961 IN VETOING BRITISH MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR DEDICATION TO THE EUROPEAN IDEAL. HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS TIME THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISHED TO MAINTAIN THE IDEA OF EUROPEAN UNITY AND HOPED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD SHOW A MORE OUTGOING ATTITUDE TO THE COMMUNITY THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. BRITISH COMPLAINTS ABOUT THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE EUROPEAN BUDGET WERE UNREALISTIC. THE BRITISH PRESENCE IN THE NORTH WAS COSTING THEM £1,000, MILLION A YEAR. IN VIEW OF THIS THEY APPEARED TO BE MAKING A LOT OF NOISE ABOUT THE £600 MILLION WHICH THEY CLAIMED THEY WOULD BE PAYING TO THE COMMUNITY IN 1980. CLAIMS THAT THEY WILL SOON BE THE GREATEST NET CONTRIBUTORS TO THE COMMUNITY BUDGET IGNORED THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP TO BRITAIN PARTICULARLY THOSE ACCRUING FROM MCAS. BECAUSE OF HER INSISTENCE ON MAINTAINING A CHEAP FOOD POLICY BRITAIN WAS BENEFITTING TO THE EXTENT OF £1 MILLION A DAY BEING PAID BY OTHER EEC COUNTRIES EXPORTING TO BRITAIN. IN GENERAL THE BRITISH HAD BEEN DRAGGING THEIR FEET IN RELATION TO MANY ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THE CAP. THIS WAS NOT A FULLY REALISTIC ATTITUDE AS COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP INVOLVED BOTH BENEFITS AND OBLIGATIONS.

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STAPLES

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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