

CONFIDENTIAL

RS TO PM

GRPS 250A

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FM DUBLIN 291600Z AUGUST 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 228 OF 29 AUGUST 79

AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO (BELFAST)

*Prime Minister*

*mb* *1/11/79*

(2)

ANGLO-IRISH SECURITY COOPERATION

1. MOST IRISH NOW APPEAR TO BE IN THE THROES OF REMORSE, SHAME AND DISGUST AT THE TRAGEDIES OF 27 AUGUST. THEY ARE ALSO APPREHENSIVE ABOUT RETALIATION IN THE SOUTH. THOUGH SOME OF THESE FEELINGS ARE SUPERFICIAL AND WILL BE SHORT-LIVED, I THINK THAT AS THE IRISH ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE, WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT TO THEM PROPOSALS AND IDEAS WHICH, OVER THE YEARS, HAVE GOT NOWHERE IN DUBLIN.

2. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, WE SHOULD TRY YET AGAIN TO PERSUADE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT THAT TO TALK ABOUT THE AIM OF IRISH UNITY IS UNREAL AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. WE SHOULD EMPHASISE THE NEED TO DEAL WITH REALITIES.

3. ON SECURITY, OUR AIM SHOULD BE TO OBTAIN MORE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION ESPECIALLY ON THE BORDER. WE SHOULD, THEREFORE, SEEK AGREEMENT ON:-

- (A) DIRECT ARMY-TO-ARMY COOPERATION:
- (B) INTERROGATION BY THE RUC OF SUSPECTS IN THE REPUBLIC:
- (C) IMPROVED INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER:
- (D) JOINT PATROLS ON THE BORDER:
- (E) HOT PURSUIT ACROSS THE BORDER.

THERE ARE, NO DOUBT, OTHER PROPOSALS WHICH YOU MAY CONSIDER SHOULD BE PUT FORWARD.

4. IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GET THE IRISH TO COOPERATE ON ANY OF THE ABOVE BUT I AM SURE THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO GO FOR THEM.

15. IF MR LYNCH

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