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FM UKREP BRUSSELS 301745Z NOV 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 4264 OF 30 NOVEMBER
AND TO PRIORITY COPENHAGEN

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REPORT ON NORTHERN IRELAND

1. AS ARRANGED WE RECEIVED THIS EVENING TWO COPIES OF HAAGERUP'S REPORT ON NORTHERN IRELAND. ONE COPY WILL BE SENT TO ANGEL, NIO BY BAG TOMORROW 1 DECEMBER, WITH A SEPARATE COPY FOR COPENHAGEN. PLEASE ENSURE THIS GETS INTO ONE OF THEIR BAGS ON FRIDAY, 2 DECEMBER. WE ARE SENDING BY MUFAX TODAY TO HALLETT, ECD(1) THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, BUT NOT THE EXPLANATORY NOTE WHICH COVERS 65 PAGES.
2. HAAGERUP WILL PRESENT THE REPORT TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND THE PRESS AT 7.00 PM ON 12 DECEMBER IN STRASBOURG APART. FROM STRASBOURG HE THINKS THERE IS A REASONABLE CHANCE IT WILL NOT LEAK BEFORE 12 DECEMBER SINCE ONLY 6 COPIES HAVE BEEN MADE, INCLUDING OURS; AND PHOTOCOPYING WILL NOT START UNTIL THE 12TH. HOWEVER, THERE IS ALREADY SPECULATION ABOUT THE REPORT AMONG THE BRUSSELS PRESS CORPS AND THE RISK OF A LEAK REMAINS.
3. AT FIRST SIGHT THE RESOLUTION IS OF THE BALANCED AND MODERATE KIND WHICH HAAGERUP PROMISED. IT CALLS ON THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO NORTHERN IRELAND AND TO DRAW UP AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE. IT STRONGLY CONDEMNS ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND SUPPORTS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS IN COMBATING TERRORISM. IT STEERS CLEAR OF PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE.
4. THE MAIN POLITICAL SUGGESTION, WHICH THE PRESS WOULD BE LIKELY TO TAKE UP IS THAT THE RESOLUTION URGES THE SETTING UP OF A JOINT ANGLO/IRISH PARLIAMENTARY BODY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND 'OF ANY ELECTED BODY TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF NORTHERN IRELAND'.
5. THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM CONTAINS MUCH DETAILED ANALYSIS AND COMMENT WHICH COULD BE DRAWN ON SELECTIVELY TO SUPPORT THE VIEWS OF ANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE DISPUTES OVER NORTHERN IRELAND. IT DISMISSES THE PROSPECT OF A SIMPLE SOLUTION - 'THERE IS NO 'SOLUTION' AS SUCH TO THE PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN IRELAND'. ANOTHER STRIKING SENTENCE IS 'THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF REALISING IRISH UNITY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE'. IT ALSO SAYS

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THAT A 'BRITISH WITHDRAWAL WOULD NOT SOLVE THE VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND BUT RATHER INCREASE IT TO CIVIL WAR PROPORTIONS', BUT THERE ARE ALSO COMMENTS WHICH ARE MILDLY CRITICAL OF DETAILED ASPECTS OF THE UK ROLE.

COMMENT

6. PRESS HANDLING OF THIS REPORT WILL BE IMPORTANT. A LEAK COUPLED WITH A SELECTIVE AND PARTISAN COMMENT OF THE REPORT COULD BE UNHELPFUL TO US. WE SHOULD BE READY WITH A FULL PRESS LINE AT SHORT NOTICE. THIS MIGHT REFER TO HAAGERUP'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S HAS ONLY LIMITED RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS FIELD (ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC), AND STRESS THE ASPECTS WHICH ARE HELPFUL TO US. AN ON THE RECORD STATEMENT BY A MINISTER, TO BE ISSUED AT SHORT NOTICE ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS, WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR PRESS IMPACT.

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NIO - PS/SOS NI, ANGEL, HILL
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