

GRPS 225

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 081545Z

FM DUBLIN 081320Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 425 OF 8 DECEMBER 1981

AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST

REPEATED FOR INFO TO WASHINGTON AND BIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO 423.

CLARK VISIT

1. AFTER AN UNCONTROVERSIAL VISIT, MR CLARK'S INTERVIEW WITH RTE (RECORDED ON 5 DECEMBER BUT ONLY BROADCAST ON 7 DECEMBER) HAS AROUSED COMMENT BECAUSE OF HIS REFERENCE TO IRISH UNIFICATION.
2. THE FULL TEXT OF MR CLARK'S INTERVIEW FOLLOWS (MIFT). MOST OF IT IS HELPFUL BUT AT ONE POINT HE WENT BEYOND THE CAREFULLY PHRASED TERMS OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER (MY TELNO 422) AND HIS OWN FAREWELL STATEMENT (COPY BY BAG) AND SAID M:
" NO, THERE IS NOT A NEW INITIATIVE: A REAFFIRMATION OF MR REAGAN'S EARLIER STATEMENT BUT AN EXTENTION — FURTHER HOPE FOR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO TRADITIONS AND CERTAINLY THE HOPE, THE PRAYER OF ALL AMERICANS THAT THIS WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO THE UNIFICATION." "
3. THE U.S. EMBASSY ARE DECLINING TO COMMENT UNTIL THEY RECEIVE GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON. PRIVATELY THEY ADMIT (PLEASE PROTECT) THAT CLARK FAILED TO REALISE THE IMPACT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD HAVE HERE. THEY HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TAKE THE LINE THAT U.S. POLICY IS AS SET OUT IN THE PRESIDENT'S 17 MARCH STATEMENT AND HIS LETTER TO THE TAOISEACH.
4. THE U.S. EMBASSY CONSIDERED TRYING TO BOWDLRISE THE INTERVIEW BUT CONCLUDED (I THINK RIGHTLY) THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY FAIL AND WOULD CERTAINLY DRAW MORE ATTENTION TO CLARK'S GAFFE.
5. THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HERE WERE UNAWARE OF THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW UNTIL IT WAS RELEASED BUT INTEND TO AVOID COMMENTING IF POSSIBLE.

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