

# CONFIDENTIAL

GROUPS 150  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FROM DUBLIN 181240Z FEBRUARY 1982.  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 43 OF 18 FEB 1982.  
AND TO IMMEDIATE INFO N I O BELFAST AND N I O LONDON

NORTHERN IRELAND: MR PRIOR'S PROPOSALS

1. I HANDED MR PRIOR'S REPLY TO SENATOR DOOGE'S LETTER OF 15 FEBRUARY TO NELIGAN THIS MORNING. THE LATTER THOUGHT THAT THE REPLY WAS REASSURING AND WELCOME.
2. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION, NELIGAN EXPLAINED THAT WHAT THE SDLP WERE WANTING FROM THE NEW PROPOSALS AND WHAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT THOUGHT IT REASONABLE FOR THEM TO ACCEPT WERE NOT THE SAME THING. HE AGREED THE SDLP WERE PERHAPS ASKING TOO MUCH TOO SOON. HOWEVER, THE IRISH GOVERNMENT, WHILE AGREEING THAT THE QUESTION OF "AN IRISH DIMENTION" WAS EMOTIVE JUST NOW AND WOULD UPSET THE UNIONISTS HOPED NEVERTHELESS THAT THE PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE A "WINDOW OPEN TO THE REPUBLIC".
3. THE IRISH CLEARLY ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SOME EFFORT ON OUR PART TO ALLOW FOR A "WINDOW" OR SOMETHING OF THE SORT. I HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE DRAFT PROPOSALS AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT THEY MEET THE IRISH POINT.

FIGG.

LIMITED

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