

UNCLASSIFIED

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FM DUBLIN 231530Z MAR 1982

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 75 OF 23 MARCH

AND TO IMMEDIATE INFO N I O (B)

F C O PLEASE PASS SAVING TO WASHINGTON

NORTHERN IRELAND : TAOISEACH'S MEETING WITH HUME

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON 22 MARCH AFTER THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TAOISEACH AND JOHN HUME.

BEGINS

THE TAOISEACH, MR CHARLES J HAUGHEY , T D , ACCOMPANIED BY THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, MR BRIAN LENIHAN T D AND MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS , MR JOHN WILSON, T D, MET A DELEGATION FROM THE S D L P IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS TODAY. THE DELEGATES CONSISTED OF MR JOHN HUME, M E P, LEADER OF THE PARTY , MR SEAMUS MALLON, DEPUTY LEADER, MR EDDIE MCGRADY SPOKESMAN ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND DR JOE HENDRON, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTATIVES.

THE MEETING CONSIDERED THE CURRENT SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND, IN PARTICULAR THE PROPOSALS BEING DEVELOPED BY THE NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR A FORM OF ADMINISTRATION THERE.

BOTH SIDES CONSIDERED THAT THE PROPOSALS AS THEY WERE EMERGING WERE UNWORKABLE. THEY FOUND THEM DEFICIENT IN THAT THEY CONCENTRATED ON THE DETAILS OF AN ADMINISTRATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, WITHOUT DUE REGARD FOR THE BROADER DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM.

/ BOTH

BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT ANOTHER FAILED INITIATIVE IN NORTHERN IRELAND COULD ONLY LEAD TO FURTHER FRUSTRATION THERE AND LESSEN THE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS BY DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL MEANS. THEY SHARED THE CONVICTION THAT SUCH PROGRESS SHOULD BE PURSUED IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THROUGH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANGLO-IRISH PROCESS INITIATED BETWEEN THE TAOISEACH AND THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER AT THEIR MEETING IN DECEMBER, 1980.

THE MEETING ALSO NOTED THAT THE MAIN UNIONIST PARTIES HAD ALREADY REJECTED THE PROPOSALS AS UNACCEPTABLE.

ENDS

2. SEE M I F T FOR COMMENTS.

FIGG

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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