

*Ireland.*

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CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 July 1982

Anglo-Irish Relations

The Prime Minister saw FCO telegram number 87 reporting the conversation between the Minister of State (Mr. Hurd) and the Irish Ambassador. With regard to the latter's reference to legislation enabling UK citizens resident in Ireland to vote in elections to the Dail, the Prime Minister has commented: "We do not want the Irish Government to give the vote to British citizens. They are pitifully few and it would not be a quid pro quo for the vote of the millions of Irish citizens who reside here".

A. J. COLES

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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*Clangston*

*We do not want  
the Irish to go to  
the US to protest  
here. They are pitifully  
few and do not have  
a million who might have  
done it*

PS TO PM NO 10 DOWNING STREET.

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GRS 455

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DESKBY 270830Z  
FM FCO 261843Z JUL 82  
TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 87 OF 26 JULY  
INFO ROUTINE NIO BELFAST

YOUR TEL NO 208: ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS

1. MR HURD SUMMONED THE IRISH AMBASSADOR TODAY (26 JULY) TO EXPRESS CONCERN AT THE CRITICISMS MADE BY MR COLLINS AND THE TAOISEACH IN THE DAIL ON 15-16 JULY (YOUR TELS NOS 197 AND 201). HE UNDERLINED THAT IT WAS WRONG AND PROFOUNDLY UNHELPFUL TO IMPLY THAT HMG HAD ENTERED INTO ANY COMMITMENT TO CONSULT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND THAT THE CURRENT CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS FULLY SAFEGUARDED THE POSITION OF THE MINORITY IN THE PROVINCE. CLOSER ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS REMAINED IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DRAW A LINE UNDER THE PRESENT SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. IN PARTICULAR HE HOPED THAT ANY FUTURE STATEMENTS BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE CAREFULLY MEASURED.
2. DR KENNEDY TOOK CAREFUL NOTE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO DUBLIN ON 28 JULY AND WOULD BE SEEING MR COLLINS AND THE TAOISEACH. MR COLLINS' SPEECH SHOULD BE READ IN FULL. IT HAD BEEN INTENDED TO CLARIFY THE IRISH POSITION, IN PARTICULAR OVER THE DEVOLUTION PROPOSALS. RATHER THAN ATTACK HMG. KENNEDY THEN REHEARSED IRISH MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE DEVOLUTION INITIATIVE ON FAMILIAR LINES: A POINT OF PARTICULAR CONCERN WAS THAT THE DISQUALIFICATION OF SEAMUS MALLON FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS COULD EASILY PROVIDE A PRETEXT FOR THE SDLP TO BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS. BUT LATER IN THE CONVERSATION HE ADMITTED THAT HE TOO HAD BEEN WORRIED BY MR COLLINS' SPEECH.
3. KENNEDY SAID THAT HE WAS ANXIOUS TO TRY TO FIND SOME WAY



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OF IMPROVING RELATIONS. HE AGREED THAT A PAUSE WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE ANY MAJOR INITIATIVES COULD BE TAKEN BUT HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK. HE WOULD BE PUTTING THE FOLLOWING IDEAS TO HIS MINISTERS ON A PERSONAL BASIS LATER THIS WEEK:

(A) WHILE A MEETING BETWEEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY OUT OF THE QUESTION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INTENSIFYING OFFICIAL LEVEL CONTACTS ON ISSUES SUCH AS ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ENERGY, TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE:

(B) CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SPEEDING UP THE INTRODUCTION OF IRISH LEGISLATION ENABLING UK CITIZENS RESIDENT IN THE REPUBLIC TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS TO THE DAIL IN ORDER TO COUNTER THE STRONG PUBLIC PRESSURE HERE IN FAVOUR OF REMOVING SIMILAR RIGHTS ENJOYED BY IRISH CITIZENS IN THE UK.

4. IF ASKED NEWS DEPARTMENT WILL CONFIRM THAT THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AND INDICATE THAT MR HURD USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE ON RECORD THE FACT THAT NO COMMITMENT EXISTS FOR HMG TO CONSULT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS AFFECTING NORTHERN IRELAND.

5. FULL RECORD WILL FOLLOW BY BAG.

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NAD  
INFORMATION D  
WED  
NEWS D  
SEC D  
PUSD  
PS  
PS/MR HURD

PS/MR ONSLOW  
PS/MR RIFKIND  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR GIFFARD  
MR ADAMS  
MR GOODISON  
LORD N G LENNOX  
MR URE

ADDITIONAL DISTN.  
NORTHERN IRELAND