

NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES 20 18

IMMEDIATE

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
~~SIR J BULLARD~~
MR GOODISON
... ..
... ..
HD/RID
HD/PUSD (2)
HD/INFO D
HD/NEWS D
... ..
... ..
RESIDENT CLERK

PS/S of S, Rm66 A/2, GOGGS

MR WOODFIELD)
MR MARSHALL) N I O
MR ANGEL)
MR HARRINGTON)

SIR R ARMSTRONG CABINET OFFICE
D I O CABINET OFFICE

PS/No.10 DOWNING STREET (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

FM DUBLIN 291655Z JULY 1982

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 222 OF 29 JULY

AND TO INFO PRIORITY N I O (BELFAST)

YOUR TELNO 87 : ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS.

1. MR COLLINS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, ASKED TO SEE ME AT FIVE PM THIS EVENING. HE READ TO ME FROM AN AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH REFERRED TO MR HURD'S MEETING WITH THE IRISH AMBASSADOR ON 26 JULY. THE MAIN THRUST OF THE PAPER, WHICH IS NOT LONG, IS TO TRY AND SHOW THAT WE ARE UNDER SOME KIND OF OBLIGATION TO CONSULT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND AFFAIRS. REFERENCE IS MADE TO PARAGRAPHS FOUR AND FIVE OF THE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THE 8 DECEMBER 1980 SUMMIT AND TO PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE JOINT MEMORANDUM ON THE ANGLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF 29 JANUARY 1982. IT ALSO QUOTES PARAGRAPH 21 OF MR ATKINS'S

~~29~~ JANUARY 1982. IT ALSO QUOTES PARAGRAPH 21 OF MR ATKINS'S WHITE PAPER OF JULY 1980. HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD GIVE THESE QUESTIONS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND PROVIDE ANSWERS IN DUE COURSE. HE GAVE ME A COPY OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH FOLLOWS BY BAG (ALSO TO BLELLOCH, N I O (L)).

2. I SAID THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ME NOT TO ATTEMPT TO REPLY TO ANY OF THE POINTS NOW. I WOULD SEE THAT THE PAPER WAS FULLY CONSIDERED. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE OUR POSITION ON HOW WE MIGHT REPLY. I HAD JUST HEARD THAT MR PRIOR WAS PROPOSING TO COME TO DUBLIN IN SEPTEMBER AND THIS VISIT ALONE MIGHT HAVE SOME BEARING ON HOW WE MADE A REPLY.

3. THERE WILL OF COURSE BE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN DRAFTING A WRITTEN REPLY IF WE WISH TO GIVE ONE. PERHAPS THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH MIGHT BE DISCUSSED DURING NEXT MONTH. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE A WRITTEN REPLY WITHOUT WORSENING RELATIONS. THE WAY IN WHICH MR COLLINS SPOKE TO ME, WHICH WAS LOW KEY, SUGGESTED TO ME THAT THEY WERE REALLY GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS. AND TO SCRATCH AROUND IN COMMUNIQES AND JOINT MEMORANDA TO MAKE THEIR CLAIM TO CONSULTATION INVITES A SHARP REJOINDER IN THE LIGHT OF THE TAOISEACH'S MOUNTING HOSTILITY TO THE DEVOLUTION PROPOSALS FROM HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE WITHOUT ANY ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT FROM US WHAT THEY MIGHT INVOLVE.

FIGG

NNNN

SENT AT RECD AT 291720Z DJ/MD