

PS	PS/S of S Rm 66 A/2 GOGGS	
PS/MR HURD	MR WOODFIELD)
)
PS/PUS	MR BRENNAN)
)
SIR J BULLARD	MR ANGEL)
)
MR GOODISON	MR BOYS SMITH)
...	...	
...	...	
HD/RID	SIR R ARMSTRONG)
)
HD/PUSD (2)	DIO)
)
HD/INFO D	...	
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...	PS/No 10 DOWNING STREET (2)	

NIO

CABINET OFFICE

GRS 420
 UNCLASSIFIED
 DESKBY FCO 171500Z
 FM DUBLIN 171250Z NOV 82
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 322 OF 17 NOVEMBER 1982
 AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO (BELFAST) AND WASHINGTON
 AND TO PRIORITY BIS NEW YORK

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

DESKBY

MY TELNO 317: IRISH GENERAL ELECTION: COMMENTS BY MR PRIOR

1. THE SECOND ITEM ON THE 9 AM RTE RADIO NEWS TODAY WAS A REPORT THAT MR PRIOR HAD TOLD JOURNALISTS IN WASHINGTON THAT HE EXPECTED DR FITZGERALD TO PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALL-IRELAND COURT AND AN ALL-IRELAND POLICE FORCE. THE NEWS WAS ALSO MENTIONED IN TODAY'S IRISH INDEPENDENT. AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S IRISH TIMES CLAIMS MR PRIOR SAID THAT 'DR FITZGERALD SUPPORTED THE ASSEMBLY. UNFORTUNATELY, MR HAUGHEY TOOK ANOTHER VIEW.'

2. THESE REPORTS LED DR FITZGERALD TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT THIS MORNING:

IN ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM A JOURNALIST, MR PRIOR IS REPORTED AS SPECULATING THAT I WOULD BE PROPOSING AN ALL-IRELAND COURT AND AN ALL-IRELAND POLICE FORCE.

I AM GLAD THAT MR PRIOR HAS 'TAKEN THIS ON BOARD'. IT IS

I AM GLAD THAT MR PRIOR HAS 'TAKEN THIS ON BOARD'. IT IS PRECISELY THE PROPOSAL I MADE BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF SOME MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHEN I GAVE THE DIMBLEBY LECTURE LAST MAY, SUBSEQUENTLY RE-BROADCAST HERE BY RTE. MR PRIOR WAS IN THE STUDIO AUDIENCE ON THAT OCCASION. MR PRIOR HAS RIGHTLY GUESSED THAT I AM STANDING BY THIS SUGGESTION AS PART OF THE LONG-TERM PROCESS OF BRINGING PEACE TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

3. THE TAOISEACH ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT. HE SAID:

THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND KNEW IN ADVANCE WHAT DR FITZGERALD WOULD SAY IN A SPEECH ON NORTHERN IRELAND REVEALS NOW THE DEGREE OF COLLUSION THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE LEADER OF THE FINE GAEL PARTY AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

WE HAVE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT DR FITZGERALD HAD SECRETLY COLLABORATED WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING THE DISASTROUS NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY PROPOSAL BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SECURE EITHER A CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL FROM DR FITZGERALD.

A FEATURE OF THIS ELECTION COMPAIGN HAS BEEN THE SUPPORT EMANATING FROM BRITISH GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORKS AND LEADING NEWSPAPERS FOR DR FITZGERALD AND THE FINE GAEL PARTY.

IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THIS SUPPORT HAS BEEN COMING FROM BRITAIN IN RETURN FOR DR FITZGERALD'S SUPPORT FOR BRITISH POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

I BELIEVE THE SITUATION WHICH HAS NOW BEEN REVEALED REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS THREATS TO OUR POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE SINCE THE LAST WAR.

ONCE AGAIN I DEMAND THAT BRITAIN STAY OUT OF OUR GENERAL ELECTION. THE IRISH PEOPLE ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF RUNING THEIR OWN AFFAIRS IN THEIR OWN WAY AND OF SELECTING THE GOVERNMENT THEY WANT.

I KNOW THEY WILL RESENT DEEPLY THIS GROSS INTERFERENCE BY BRITAIN IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN THIS COUNTRY.

4. IN A CHATSHOW ON RTE RADIO, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR COLLINS, ACCUSED DR FITZGERALD OF 'SECRET COLLUSION' WITH BRITAIN AND AGAIN REFERRED TO THE DUKE OF NORFOLK'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

5. SEE MIFT FOR COMMENT.

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VISIT OF MR PRIOR: NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE IRISH GENERAL ELECTION.

AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON 16 NOVEMBER MR PRIOR WAS ASKED BY SEAM CRONIN (IRISH TIMES) ABOUT THE ALLEGED VIEW OF NORTHERN IRELAND NATIONALISTS THAT THE ASSEMBLY WAS A FAILURE AND ABOUT PROPOSALS BY DR FITZGERALD FOR A TRIPARTITE COUNCIL AND AN ALL-IRELAND COURT. MR PRIOR REPLIED:

QUOTE

WELL, I THINK THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY THAT MOST OF THE NATIONALISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND THINK THE ASSEMBLY IS A FAILURE. THE RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLL WHICH WAS TAKEN JUST BEFORE THE ELECTION, (I DON'T THINK IN A NORTHERN IRELAND CONTEXT ONE WANTS TO PLACE TOO MUCH FAITH ON PUBLIC OPINION POLLS), THE RECENT ONE THAT WAS TAKEN SHOWED THAT THE MAJORITY OF CATHOLICS WANTED TO GIVE THE ASSEMBLY A CHANCE, AND WERE DISSAPPOINTED THAT THE SDLP WERE NOT GOING TO

MAJORITY OF CATHOLICS WANTED TO GIVE THE ASSEMBLY
A CHANCE, AND WERE DISSAPPOINTED THAT THE SDLP WERE NOT GOING TO
TAKE THEIR PLACES IN THE ASSEMBLY. SO, I DON'T THINK THAT ONE OUGHT
TO WRITE OFF THE ASSEMBLY IN THAT WAY, CERTAINLY NOT UNTIL IT HAS
HAD A MUCH GREATER OPPORTUNITY THAN HAS BEEN POSSIBLE UP TO NOW.
GARRET FITZGERALD HAS PUT FORWARD THE IDEA OF AN ALL IRELAND COURT
ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS BUT I DON'T THINK THAT HE HAS ADVOCATED IT SO
MUCH RECENTLY. AND I THINK THAT HE IS LIKELY TO CHANGE HIS
STANCE A LITTLE BIT ON THAT TO SOME OTHER FORM OF ARRANGEMENT
WHICH WOULD ENABLE PERHAPS JURISDICTION TO BE MORE WIDELY SHARED
IN THE WHOLE OF IRELAND. BUT I THINK WE HAD BETTER WAIT UNTIL HE HAS
MADE ANOTHER SPEECH ON THAT WHICH I UNDERSTAND HE IS LIKELY TO MAKE
SOON. I THINK THE MAIN DIFFERENCE AND THE MAIN DIFFICULTY HAS BEEN
THAT GARRET FITZGERALD DID SUPPORT AN ASSEMBLY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND.
HE RECOGNISED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE SOME MEANS OF REPRESENT-
ING THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ANY TRIPARTITE ARRANGEMENT THAT
WAS MADE FOR WESTMINSTER AND THE DAIL AND UNFORTUNATELY CHARLIE
HUAGHEY TOOK A DIFFERENT VIEW ABOUT ANY INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION IN
THE NORTH. BUT I THINK WE HAD BETTER WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS
IN THESE ELECTIONS AND ALL WE CAN SAY AT THE MOMENT IS THAT WHOEVER
IS ELECTED WE WILL CERTAINLY WISH TO WORK WITH THEM AND WE WISH TO
SEE AN IMPROVEMENT AND A RESTORATION OF ANGLO/IRISH RELATIONS TO
WHERE THEY WERE BEFORE THE PROBLEMS OF LAST FEBRUARY/MARCH.

WRIGHT

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