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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
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NORTHERN IRELAND: SPEECH BY MR HAUGHEY

1. THERE WAS A LONG SECTION ON NORTHERN IRELAND IN MR HAUGHEY'S PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH ON 26 FEBRUARY TO THE FIANNA FAIL ARD FHEIS. FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS OF THE MAIN POINTS:

BEGINS

THE IRISH PEOPLE HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS, THAT BELONG TO ALL NATIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE RIGHT TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OUR COUNTRY, AND THE RIGHT OF NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION. THIS IS A RIGHT THAT IS POSSESSED AND SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN COMMON BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND....

PEOPLE OF IRELAND....

THERE IS ALSO THE THEORY OF SOME BRITISH POLITICIANS THAT THE ONUS IS ON THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND TO WORK OUT THEIR OWN SOLUTION. THIS IS THE CONCEPT WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRESENT ASSEMBLY, THE COMPLETE FAILURE OF WHICH IS NOW FULLY ACKNOWLEDGED. WHAT THIS THEORY IGNORES, HOWEVER, IS THAT UNIONISTS, SO LONG AS THEY ENJOY THE UNCONDITIONAL BRITISH MILITARY, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GUARANTEE, HAVE NO INCENTIVE OR DESIRE TO REACH ANY ACCOMMODATION WITH ANYBODY OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY SOLUTION....

WHAT OUGHT TO HAPPEN NOW, AND IT CANNOT BE MUCH LONGER DELAYED, IS THAT THE TWO SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD COME TOGETHER AND CREATE A FRAMEWORK FOR A NEW POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

THE STARTING POINT FOR SUCH A NEW POLITICAL SETTLEMENT MUST BE AN ALL-ROUND CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE CONVENED ON THE BASIS THAT IT WOULD BE A PRELUDE TO A FINAL WITHDRAWAL OF BRITAIN FROM IRELAND WITHIN A STIPULATED PERIOD OF TIME, ENABLING THE IRISH PEOPLE NORTH AND SOUTH TO COME TOGETHER AND FREELY DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE. SUCH A MULTI-REPRESENTATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, WOULD WORK OUT THE CONDITIONS FOR THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURES FOR THE WHOLE ISLAND....

IN FIANNA FAIL WE HAVE REPEATEDLY BY WORD AND DEED CONDEMNED VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AS HORRIBLE IN ITSELF AND UNACCEPTABLE AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING POLITICAL ENDS. WE ABHOR AS EVIL TERRORIST ATTACKS ON INNOCENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, SECTARIAN ASSASSINATIONS, AND EXECUTIONS WITHOUT TRIAL. ALL THESE ARE MANIFESTATIONS OF A BREAK-DOWN OF THE NORMAL STANDARDS OF A POLITICALLY VIABLE STATE....

WE WOULD SUPPORT AS A VALUABLE FIRST STEP IN PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT THE SDLP PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL FOR A NEW IRELAND. SUCH A COUNCIL COULD IN ADVANCE PREPARE AN OUTLINE PLAN WHICH WOULD COMMAND THE SUPPORT OF ALL SHADES OF NATIONALIST OPINION AND COULD THEN BE PUT BEFORE THE ALL-ROUND CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

WHAT OF THE RIGHTS OF 900,000 NORTHERN UNIONISTS? THEIR RIGHTS ARE, AS THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN, THE SAME, NO MORE, NO LESS, THAN THE RIGHTS OF EVERYONE ELSE WHO LIVES ON THIS ISLAND. THEY HAVE AN INALIENABLE RIGHT TO HAVE THEIR INTERESTS AND THEIR VALUES GUARANTEED AND SAFEGUARDED. THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL

TEED AND SAFEGUARDED. THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE VITAL.....

THE UNIONISTS OF THE NORTH ARE DEEPLY ATTACHED TO THIS COUNTRY WHERE THEY HAVE SUNK THEIR ROOTS, EVEN THOUGH IN SOME CASES THEIR PRIDE OF PLACE MAY BE CONFINED TO THEIR OWN PART OF IRELAND. IT SHOULD BE RECOGNISED THAT THEY AND THEIR ANCESTORS HAVE DONE MUCH TO BUILD UP THE NORTHERN PART OF OUR ISLAND, AND THAT THEIR RIGHTS ARE BASED NOT ON ANCIENT CHARTERS OF CONQUEST BUT ON CHARACTER AND PERSONAL EFFORT.....

ENDS

2. COMMENTS IN MIFT.

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