

IMMEDIATE

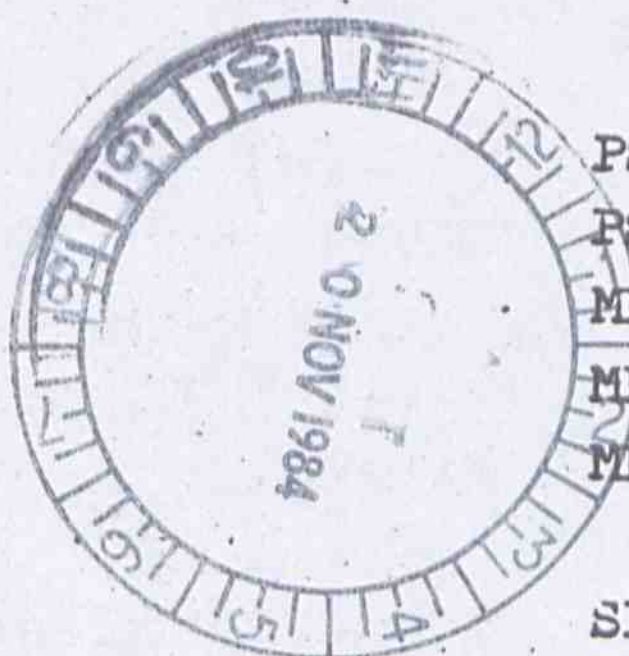
NORTHERN IRELAND

PS  
 PS/LADY YOUNG  
 PS/PUS  
 MR GOODALL

HD/RID

Dep. HD/PUSD (2)  
 HD/INFO DEPT  
 HD/NEWS DEPT

RESIDENT CLERK



PS/ S of S

PS/MR R ANDREW, OAB 1/56

MR BRENNAN

MR BURNS

MR J LYON

NIO

SIR R ARMSTRONG)

DIO

CABINET OFFICE

PS/ NO 10 DOWNING STREET (3)

14.11.84

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 201300Z

FM DUBLIN 201255Z NOV 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 675 OF 20 NOVEMBER 1984

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO (BELFAST) AND NIO (LONDON)

## ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT: IMMEDIATE REACTIONS

1. THE FIANNA FAIL LEADER, MR HAUGHEY, WAS PREDICTABLY CRITICAL OF THE SUMMIT'S OUTCOME, EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT "NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE" HAD EMERGED AND THAT THERE WAS "NO AGREEMENT ON ANY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE FORUM REPORT". HE SAID THAT "A UNIONIST VETO OVER ANY KIND OF POLITICAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN AFFIRMED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN A NEW AND WIDELY EXTENDED FORM WHICH PRECLUDES ANY POSSIBLE PROGRESS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE".

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT IS MIXED. TODAY'S IRISH TIMES AND IRISH PRESS EXPRESS STRONG DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE APPARENT OUTCOME OF THE TALKS, WHILE THE IRISH INDEPENDENT TAKES A MUCH MORE POSITIVE LINE.

3. THE IRISH TIMES, IN A POORLY REASONED LEADER REPEATEDLY BLAMING THE PRIME MINISTER, SAYS:

"THE MOST OPTIMISTIC READING OF THE COMMUNIQUE CANNOT DISPEL THE INSTINCTIVE FEELING OF GLOOM AND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT, AFTER SO MANY HOURS OF TALKING, MRS THATCHER'S VIEW OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND QUESTION SHOULD REMAIN SO FAR AND SO FIRMLY APART FROM THE CONSENSUS OF NATIONALIST IRELAND AS EXPRESSED IN THE FORUM REPORT".

IT GOES ON TO QUESTION WHETHER THE TAOISEACH WAS WISE TO HOLD TALKS AT ALL AT THIS TIME.

4. THE IRISH PRESS PREDICTABLY LETS FLY. IN AN ANGRY BUT MORE COHERENT EDITORIAL, IT ACCUSES THE TAOISEACH OF HAVING LET DOWN THE IRISH NATION:

"CONSTITUTIONAL NATIONALISM FELL FLAT ON ITS FACE. MRS THATCHER

COHERENT EDITORIAL, IT ACCUSES THE TAOISEACH OF HAVING LET DOWN THE IRISH NATION:

"CONSTITUTIONAL NATIONALISM FELL FLAT ON ITS FACE. MRS THATCHER FLATLY STATED THAT NORTHERN IRELAND WAS BRITISH AND THAT WAS THAT. NOT A BLIND BIT ABOUT THE INADEQUACIES OF THE NORTHERN STATE OR ITS AWFUL IMPACTS ON OUR OWN SOCIETY WERE EVEN HINTED AT."

THE EDITORIAL DESPAIRINGLY CONCLUDES

"WE ARE NOW BACK AT SQUARE MINUS ONE...."

AND THAT:

"WE HAVE NO SOLUTION AND DR FITZGERALD MUST KNOW IN HIS HEART THAT HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT ARE ENTITLED TO FEEL LITTLE OF EITHER PRIDE, COMFORT OR REPUTATION."

5. THE IRISH INDEPENDENT STRIKES A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, ARGUING THAT DR FITZGERALD HAS RETURNED TO DUBLIN WITH THE CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT THE NORTH HAS BEEN MOVED MUCH HIGHER ON MRS THATCHER'S PERSONAL LIST OF PRIORITIES THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN, AND POINTS OUT THAT IT WAS NEVER ON TO BELIEVE THAT THE TALKS WOULD PRODUCE "A MAGIC FORMULA WHICH COULD DISSOLVE THE NORTHERN PROBLEM BEFORE OUR EYES." THE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT THE COMMUNIQUE CLEARLY INDICATES THAT A SEARCH IS TO BE MADE FOR STRUCTURES IN THE NORTH WHICH WILL REFLECT AND RESPECT THE IDENTITIES OF BOTH COMMUNITIES THERE. "MR HAUGHEY IS ENTITLED TO BELIEVE THAT NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AT THE TALKS ONLY IF HE CAN SHOW THAT HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT WAS TALKED ABOUT BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF STATE." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY OBSERVING THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO REFRAIN FROM COMPARING SUMMIT MEETINGS TO FOOTBALL MATCHES. "THIS IS NOT A CONTEST OF WILLS BETWEEN ENEMIES. IT IS AND MUST BE A COOPERATIVE EFFORT. THE TALKS HAVE MOST LIKELY RESULTED IN LONDON AND DUBLIN UNDERSTANDING ONE ANOTHER BETTER THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE RECENT PAST."

STIMSON

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