

IMMEDIATE

NORTHERN IRELAND

PS
 PS/LADY YOUNG
 PS/PUS
 MR GOODALL

PS/ S of S
 PS/MR R ANDREW, OAB 1/56
 MR BRENNAN
 MR BURNS
 MR J LYON

NIO

HD/RID

Dep. HD/PUSD (2)

HD/INFO DEPT

HD/NEWS DEPT

SIR R ARMSTRONG
 DIO

CABINET OFFICE

PS/ NO 10 DOWNING STREET (3)

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 051200Z

FM DUBLIN 051030Z DEC 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 727 OF 5 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(B) WASHINGTON BIS NEW YORK BONN PARIS

INFO SAVING UKREP BRUSSELS

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS

1. THE SUBSTANCE AND STYLE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS ON ANGLO/IRISH RELATIONS AT HER PRESS CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN CASTLE YESTERDAY HAVE BEEN GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED BY THE IRISH MEDIA, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD HAVE DEARLY LOVED MORE CONTROVERSY. HER STATEMENT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY RELIEVED THE PRESSURE, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, ON DR FITZGERALD, WHOSE HANDLING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IS BEING INTERPRETED AS A PERSONAL SUCCESS. THE IMMEDIATE OFFICIAL REACTION (FROM LILLIS) WAS ONE OF MUCH APPRECIATION THAT MRS THATCHER HAD TAKEN SUCH CARE WITH THE MEDIA.
2. TODAY'S PAPERS ARE PREDICTABLY DOMINATED BY THE ANGLO-IRISH BILATERAL IN THE MARGINS OF THE COUNCIL. HEADLINES ARE: "SUMMIT TRIUMPH: FITZGERALD WINS EURO AND ANGLO-IRISH ACCORD" (INDEPENDENT), "WHERE WE WENT WRONG - TAOISEACH" (PRESS), "BRITISH PM HAS 'GOOD NEWS'" (TIMES).
3. INSIDE PAGES ALSO DEVOTE MUCH SPACE TO THE PRESS CONFERENCES GIVEN BY THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS. MR HURD'S SPEECH TO THE ASSEMBLY IS ALSO REPORTED, AS IS MR BARRY'S SRELATIVELY BALANCED SPEECH TO THE DAIL ON THE CURRENT SUPERGRASS DEBATE.
4. THE IRISH PRESS DEVOTES A LENGTHY AND SLIGHTLY SCEPTICAL EDITORIAL ("FRIENDS AGAIN ...?) TO THE PRESS CONFERENCES AND TO MR HURD'S SPEECH. THE INDEPENDENT IS MORE GENEROUS, COMMENTING THAT "YESTERDAY ... MRS THATCHER WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO PUBLICLY MEND (SIC) THE FENCES PEOPLE BELIEVED HAD BEEN TRAMPLED DOWN DURING THE CHEQUERS MEETING".
5. FCO PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO NO 10 (INGHAM) AND TO NIO (L) (LYON)

GOODISON

NNNN