

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 310
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FM DUBLIN 061045Z FEB 84
TO IMMEDIATE NIO (LONDON)
TELEGRAM NUMBER 5 OF 6 FEBRUARY 1984
INFO ROUTINE FCO AND NIO (BELFAST)

MS

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO MR NICHOLAS SCOTT

NEW IRELAND FORUM

1. ON 4 FEBRUARY, AFTER MR NICHOLAS SCOTT HAD DISCUSSED THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND WITH HIM, THE TAOISEACH SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS IN AGREEING THE DRAFT OF THE FORUM REPORT AMONG THE PARTIES PARTICIPATING. A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH HAD BEEN MADE ON 2 FEBRUARY.
2. THE REPORT WAS TO BE IN THREE PARTS. THE FIRST WOULD BE MERELY HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE. THE SECOND WOULD BE A LIST OF PRINCIPLES TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY CONSIDERATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND. THE THIRD WOULD EXAMINE POSSIBLE PRESCRIPTIONS.
3. ON 2 FEBRUARY THE LIST OF PRINCIPLES HAD BEEN AGREED IN TERMS WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO HMG AND WHICH TOOK FULL ACCOUNT OF THE POSITION OF THE ULSTER UNIONISTS AND THEIR DESIRE TO BE BRITISH. HE BELIEVED THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS A CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION WITH US.
4. HE WAS LESS CLEAR ABOUT THE THIRD PART. HE SAID IT WOULD PUT UNITY FIRST. MR SCOTT TRIED BUT DID NOT SUCCEED IN GETTING HIM TO BE MORE PRECISE, NO DOUBT BECAUSE THE DRAFT HAS NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED. (AT ONE POINT HE DESCRIBED UNITY AS AN AIM. HE DID NOT USE THE WORD ASPIRATION.) BUT THEN, HE SAID THE REPORT WOULD GO ON TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES. FOR ALL OF THESE, INCLUDING UNITY, THE REPORT WOULD SET OUT THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES.
5. MR SCOTT ADVISED HIM NOT TO SET HIS SIGHTS TOO HIGH. DR FITZGERALD DID NOT SUGGEST AT ANY POINT THAT RESENTMENT AT THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S VISIT TO DRUMADD WOULD AFFECT THE REPORT.
6. FCO PLEASE COPY IMMEDIATE TO GOODALL, CABINET OFFICE.

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