

Subject

cc Master  
OPS

CONFIDENTIAL

16503 - 1

ZZ DUBLIN

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. 72/84

GRS 242

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 021200Z MAY 84

TO FLASH DUBLIN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 333 OF 2 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, BIS NEW YORK

PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO THE TAOISEACH

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE TAOISEACH'S LETTER OF 27 APRIL TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

BEGINS: DEAR GARRET,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 27 APRIL ENCLOSING A COPY OF AN ALMOST FINAL TEXT OF THE FORUM REPORT. I WAS MOST GRATEFUL TO HAVE THIS ADVANCE VERSION. I SHALL OF COURSE RESPECT YOUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY.

I AM GRATEFUL, TOO, FOR THE CARE WHICH YOU HAVE TAKEN IN YOUR LETTER TO SET OUT THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AS YOU SEE THEM PERSONALLY. I SHALL STUDY THESE AND THE REPORT CAREFULLY, AND SHALL ASK GEOFFREY HOWE AND JIM PRIOR TO PUT THE NECESSARY WORK IN HAND TOWARDS THE PREPARATION OF OUR CONSIDERED RESPONSE. YOU WILL, I AM SURE, UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE FACE OF SUCH DEEP-SEATED PROBLEMS IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE WE ARE READY.

WE SHALL OF COURSE HAVE TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT WHEN THE FORUM REPORT IS PUBLISHED. YOU HAVE KINDLY EXPLAINED THE IRISH DOMESTIC REASONS FOR SOME OF THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN THE DRAFT. WE, TOO, SHALL HAVE TO HAVE REGARD FOR THE DOMESTIC REACTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. WE SHALL DO OUR BEST TO AVOID SAYING THINGS WHICH COULD MAKE IT HARDER FOR YOU AND FOR US TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE.

KIND REGARDS, YOURS SINCERELY, MARGARET THATCHER.

ENDS

HOWE

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CONFIDENTIAL

Subject re. Master  
Ops.c fo  
N10

PRIME MINISTER



PERSONAL MESSAGE

10 DOWNING STREET

SERIAL No. T 70/84

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 May 1984

*Confidential**Dear Garret,*

Thank you for your letter of 27 April enclosing a copy of an almost final text of the Forum Report. I was most grateful to have this advance version. I shall of course respect your desire to maintain strict confidentiality.

I am grateful, too, for the care which you have taken in your letter to set out the political considerations as you see them personally. I shall study these and the Report carefully, and shall ask Geoffrey Howe and Jim Prior to put the necessary work in hand towards the preparation of our considered response. You will, I am sure, understand that in the face of such deep-seated problems it may be some time before we are ready.

We shall of course have to issue a public statement when the Forum Report is published. You have kindly explained the Irish domestic reasons for some of the sentiments expressed in the draft. We, too, shall have to have regard for the domestic reaction in the United Kingdom. We shall do our best to avoid saying things which could make it harder for you and for us to continue the dialogue.

*Kind regards,**Yours sincerely*



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

PRIME MINISTER

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

DR GARRET FITZGERALD

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 27 April enclosing a copy of an almost final text of the Forum Report. I was most grateful to have this advance version, <sup>I shall</sup> ~~and will~~ of course respect your desire to maintain strict confidentiality.

I am grateful too for the care which you have taken in your letter to set out the political considerations as you see them personally. I shall study these and the Report carefully, and shall ask Geoffrey Howe and Jim Prior to put the necessary work in hand towards the preparation of our considered response. You will, ~~SI am sure,~~ <sup>I am sure,</sup> understand that in the face of such deep-seated problems it may be some time before we are ready.

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

AR 1/5.

AI - MAY 1984

