

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/VR WHITNEY

PS/PDS

~~SIR B ARMSTRONG~~

VE JENKINS

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ED/PID

ED/PUSD (2)

ED INFO D

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PS/S. O. S
PS/ MR R. ANDREW
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VE BEECHMAN

VE ANGE

J. LYON
~~VE BEECHMAN~~

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SIR B ARMSTRONG

DIO

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PS/No 10 DOWNING STREET (3)

NIO

CABINET

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

GRS 420
RESTRICTED
FM DUBLIN 281440Z AUG 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 416 OF 28 AUGUST 1984
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO (LONDON) NIO (BELFAST)

MY TELNO 414: IRISH GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS

SUMMARY

1. MR BARRY IS REPORTED BY THE PRESS AS SPEAKING AGAIN ON 27 AUGUST ON NORTHERN IRELAND. HE SAID THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HOPED THE ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT WOULD BE A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, AND THAT ANYTHING LESS WOULD NOT SATISFY THEM.

DETAIL

2. TODAY'S 'IRISH TIMES' REPORTS MR BARRY AS SAYING THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE SUMMIT WOULD BE HELD BEFORE DECEMBER, AND QUOTES HIM AS FOLLOWS:

'THE INDICATIONS THROUGH THE CIVIL SERVICE CHANNEL ARE THAT MRS THATCHER IS RECEIVING BETTER ADVICE THAN SHE HAD BEEN GETTING UP 'TILL NOW. I WOULD SAY THAT NORTHERN IRELAND HAS BEEN MOVED UP A NOTCH ON HER AGENDA, THAT'S NOT HIGH ENOUGH FOR ME PERSONALLY, BUT AT LEAST WE ARE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS FROM MY DISCUSSIONS WITH JIM PRIOR AND GEOFFREY HOWE THAT THERE IS A NEW ACCEPTANCE OF THE SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT THE PRESENT SITUATION.

OF THE SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT THE PRESENT SITUATION.

"I BELIEVE THAT LAST YEAR'S LONDON SUMMIT HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON MRS THATCHER'S THINKING, SO MUCH SO THAT BOTH SHE AND HER CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE BEEN PAYING THE PROBLEM OF NORTHERN IRELAND MORE ATTENTION. AS REGARDS THE SUMMIT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE LOOKING FOR A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, ANYTHING LESS THAN THAT WOULD NOT SATISFY US AND WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF FAILING TO HALT THE ALIENATION WHICH IS BEING FELT INCREASINGLY BY THE NATIONALISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. BUT WHILE WE ARE ANXIOUS FOR A RESPONSE WE DO NOT WANT A RUSHED RESPONSE OR SOMETHING THAT WOULD MERELY TINKER WITH THE SYSTEM AS IT EXISTS NOW - THAT WOULDN'T SATISFY US. WE PRESENTED THEM WITH A VERY DETAILED REPORT AND THEY HAVE BEEN GIVING THAT THEIR DETAILED CONSIDERATION."

COMMENT

3. THE DFA TELL US THAT THESE COMMENTS WERE MADE BY MR BARRY IN AN "INFORMAL" TALK (OR TELEPHONE INTERVIEW) WITH THE REPORTER. WE NEED NOT REGARD THEM AS CONSIDERED. BUT THEY INDICATE THE WAY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT ARE BUILDING UP THEIR OWN EXPECTATIONS OF US AND THOSE OF THE IRISH PUBLIC.

GOODISON

NNNN

SENT/RECD 281515Z GC/MJM

GRS540
UNCLASSIFIED
FM DUBLIN 271615Z AUG 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 414 OF 27 AUGUST 1984
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO (L) NIO (B)

IRISH GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON NORTHERN IRELAND

SUMMARY

1. SPEECHES MADE BY TWO SENIOR IRISH GOVERNMENT MINISTERS THIS WEEKEND ARE BEING INTERPRETED AS INDICATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS STEPPING UP PRESSURE ON HMG FOR AN INITIATIVE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

DETAIL

2. IN A TOUGH SPEECH ON SATURDAY, MR BARRY SAID THAT HMG MUST MATCH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT, AS EVIDENCED BY THE FORUM REPORT, TO WORK FOR PEACE. "REAL DEMOCRACY" DID NOT EXIST IN NORTHERN IRELAND, SINCE THAT WOULD "REQUIRE STRUCTURES WHICH FULLY ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACCOMMODATE THE FUNDAMENTAL DIVISIONS OF THE COMMUNITY. THE ABSENCE OF REAL DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES HAS CREATED AND NURTURED TODAY'S DANGEROUS ALIENATION". THE TWO GOVERNMENTS MUST NOW CREATE CONDITIONS IN THE NORTH IN WHICH DEMOCRACY COULD GROW AND FLOURISH. WORKING TOGETHER THEY COULD BRIDGE THE GULF BETWEEN THE TWO TRADITIONS.

3. THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MR NOONAN, SAID ON SATURDAY THAT THE INDICATIONS WERE THAT LONDON HAD COME TO SHARE A SENSE OF URGENCY OVER THE NORTH WHICH, TOGETHER WITH "THE EMERGING COMMON ANALYSIS OF MAJOR ASPECTS OF THE CRISIS CAN BE, AND MUST BE, TRANSFORMED INTO A MAJOR ANGLO-IRISH INITIATIVE". NOONAN SAID THAT THE FORUM REPORT'S ASSERTION OF THE IRREDUCIBLE REQUIREMENTS OF A NEW IRELAND OFFERED THE BEST HOPE SO FAR OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO TRADITIONS. BOTH GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CREATE STRUCTURES WHICH WOULD ACCOMMODATE AS EQUALS THE TWO IDENTITIES. LONDON AND DUBLIN MUST PROVIDE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH WHAT THEY NEEDED, NOT WHAT THE IRISH OR THE BRITISH WOULD LIKE.

4. THE IRISH TIMES REPORT GOES ON TO SAY THAT:
"A BRITISH RESPONSE, WHICH MAY TAKE THE FORM OF A LENGTHY REPLY TO THE FORUM REPORT, FOLLOWED BY DETAILED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND CULMINATING IN A SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN MRS THATCHER AND THE TAOISEACH IS BEING PREPARED IN LONDON. ALREADY THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TOP-RANKING OFFICIALS IN LONDON AND DUBLIN ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL TALKS HAVE BEEN HELD AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL".

5. THE IRISH INDEPENDENT COMMENTS THAT

"MR BARRY'S SPEECH... WILL RAISE HACKLES IN THE NORTH, BUT THIS IS AN EASY FEAT TO ACHIEVE AT ANY TIME. NEVERTHELESS, TOUGH COMMENTS FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE NOT DELIVERED OFF-THE -CUFF. THEY ARE THE RESULT OF CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND MUST HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE".

THE TIMES SAYS:

"HALF A CENTURY AGO FIANNA FAIL STOLE THE SEPARATE GARMENTS OF WHAT WAS THEN CUMANN NA GAEL. MR BARRY IS CAREFULLY PREPARING FINE GAEL DEFENCES AGAINST ANY SUCH LARCENY TODAY AS WELL AS LAYING DOWN SOME OBVIOUS PLANTS FOR ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE".

6. FULL TEXTS OF BOTH SPEECHES FOLLOW BY BAG TO RID AND NIO (LONDON AND BELFAST).

GOODISON

NORTHERN IRELAND
LIMITED

RID
NAD
INFO D
WED
MAED
NEWS D
PUSD
SCU
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/PUS

MR DEREK THOMAS
SIR W HARDING
MR GOODALL
MR BARRINGTON
MR O'NEILL
MR JENKINS
MR D C THOMAS
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN IRELAND