

NORTHERN IRELAND

PS
 PS/LADY YOUNG
 PS/PUS
 MR GOODALL

APS/ 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
 RESIDENT CLERK

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
 DIO } CABINET OFFICE
 PS/ NO 10 DOWNING STREET (3)

14.11.84

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

GRS 1250
 CONFIDENTIAL
 FM WASHINGTON 271755Z MAR 85
 TO IMMEDIATE F C O
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 1077 DATED 27 MARCH
 INFO IMMEDIATE NIO LONDON, NIO BELFAST, DUBLIN, BIS NEW YORK,
 CG NEW YORK
 INFO SAVING ATLANTA, BOSTON, CHICAGO, CLEVELAND, HOUSTON,
 LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

SUMMARY

1. MR HURD MET A BROAD RANGE OF LEADING CONGRESSMEN AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WITH AN INTEREST IN NORTHERN IRELAND. BRITISH COMMITMENT TO ANGLO-IRISH DIALOGUE AND TO SEARCH FOR PROGRESS WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND RE-AFFIRMED; SPECULATIVE UK STORIES OVER THE WEEKEND DOWN-PLAYED. HELPFUL PLEDGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION ON EXTRADITION. USEFUL DISCUSSION OF INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

DETAIL

2. MR HURD VISITED WASHINGTON ON 24-26 MARCH. HE MET THE SPEAKER AND SENIOR SENATE AND HOUSE COLLEAGUES IN THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND AND MET MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. HE CALLED ON THE NSC, STATE DEPARTMENT AND FBI, THE AFL-CIO AND THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE WASHINGTON POST (CHAIRD BY THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR BEN BRADLEE). HE ALSO UNDERTOOK A NUMBER OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS.

3. MR HURD EXPLAINED THAT BRITISH POLICY WAS TO WORK IN PARALLEL ON FOUR FRONTS: ANGLO-IRISH, WITHIN NORTHER IRELAND ITSELF, SECURITY AND THE ECONOMY. HIS PRINCIPAL MESSAGE WAS THAT, ALTHOUGH SERIOUS WORK WAS GOING ON BETWEEN LONDON AND DUBLIN, IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHAT PRACTICAL RESULTS COULD EMERGE FROM THE DIALOGUE. HE HOPED THAT AN ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT WHICH SAW THE PRESENT DISCUSSIONS THROUGH TO A CONCLUSION MIGHT BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF THE SUMMER, BUT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON PROGRESS MEANWHILE. MR HURD INDICATED IN CONFIDENCE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT A CONSULTATIVE ROLE WAS ENVISAGED FOR THE IRISH GOVERNMENT IN CERTAIN ASPECTS OF NORTHERN IRELANDS AFFAIRS. MR HURD ALSO REFERRED TO THE NEED TO ENGAGE THE POLITICAL LEADERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN RATIONAL DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DEVOLUTION OF POWER WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND. HE EXPLAINED THE TASK HE HAD ASSIGNED TO MR PATTEN, BUT DID NOT DISGUISE THE DIFFICULTY OF ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE UNIONIST OPINION FELT THREATENED BY SPECULATIVE REPORTING ON THE ANGLO-IRISH PROCESS.

4. MR HURD'S INTERLOCUTORS WERE SENSITIVE TO THESE POINTS. ALL WERE NATURALLY INTERESTED IN THE PRESS STORIES OVER THE WEEKEND, BUT NONE SEEMED IMPATIENT OF THE PRESENT PACE OF NEGOTIATION WITH DUBLIN. THE SPEAKER SAID THAT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED A QUOTE TREMENDOUSLY OPTIMISTIC FEELING UNQUOTE IN DUBLIN THAT THERE WOULD BE A BREAKTHROUGH. HE HOPED THAT IRISH OPINION QUOTE WAS NOT TOO EXHILARATED UNQUOTE. HE AND OTHERS MR HURD MET IN CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION SEEMED TO GRASP VERY WELL THE COMPLEXITY OF THE DISCUSSIONS. KELLY (PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, STATE DEPARTMENT) SAID THAT IF THE ANGLO-IRISH PROCESS WAS SUCCESSFUL AND LED TO A SUMMER SUMMIT, THE US ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO COMMENT IMMEDIATELY ON THE OUTCOME. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IF THEY COULD BE BRIEFED ON THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS. MR HURD UNDERTOOK TO KEEP THE ADMINISTRATION UP TO DATE ON BRITISH THINKING AND THE DISCUSSIONS WITH DUBLIN.

ON THE OUTCOME. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IF THEY
COULD BE BRIEFED ON THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS. MR HURD UNDERTOOK
TO KEEP THE ADMINISTRATION UP TO DATE ON BRITISH THINKING AND THE
DISCUSSIONS WITH DUBLIN.

5. THE FIGHT AGAINST THE IRA AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WAS
DISCUSSED AT MEETINGS AT THE NSC AND FBI AND MORE GENERALLY
ELSEWHERE. BOTH POINDEXTER (DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY
ADVISER) AND DAM (DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE) RE-AFFIRMED THE
ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION TO BRING THE REVISION OF OUR
BILATERAL EXTRADITION TREATY TO REMOVE THE POLITICAL OFFENCE
LOOPHOLE TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION IN THE SENATE. CONGRESSMAN
MICA, WHO CHAIRED THE MEETING WITH THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE, PLACED THE IRA FIRMLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE THREAT
TO THE USA AND OTHER WESTERN DEMOCRACIES POSED BY INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM. AT HIS MEETINGS AT THE NSC AND FBI IN PARTICULAR,
MR HURD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF PRACTICAL
COOPERATION ON SECURITY MATTERS WHILE EMPHASISING THE NEED TO DO
EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESTRICT EVEN FURTHER THE FLOW OF WEAPONS
AND MONEY FROM THE US. HE MADE CLEAR BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION OF WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION
AND CONGRESS WERE DOING.

6. THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES AND EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES IN
NORTHERN IRELAND WERE RAISED AT THE MEETING WITH THE AFL-CIO
AND IN QUESTIONS BY CONGRESSMEN BIAGGI AND GILMAN AT THE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING. MR HURD MADE CLEAR THAT IT WAS MORE JOBS,
NOT MORE LAWS THAT WERE NEEDED IN NORTHERN IRELAND. ECONOMIC
EXPANSION WOULD NOT ONLY CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
THE MINORITY COMMUNITY BUT HAD A DIRECT IMPACT ALSO ON SECURITY
AND THE PROSPECTS FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. HE ENCOURAGED
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SPEAK FAVOURABLY ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND AS
AN INVESTMENT LOCATION IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH US INDUSTRIALISTS AND
OPINION-FORMERS.

7. THE QUESTION OF A LARGE US AID PACKAGE TO NORTHERN IRELAND WAS
RAISED BY THE SPEAKER'S STAFF AND AT OTHER MEETINGS AND
MEDIA INTERVIEWS. MR HURD MADE CLEAR THAT AN OFFER BY THE US
ADMINISTRATION OR CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
NORTHERN IRELAND FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THE PRESENT
TALKS WOULD BE WELCOME. BUT HE WAS CONCERNED TO TAKE THINGS ONE
STEP AT A TIME AND DID NOT WISH TO GET INTO DETAIL ON WHAT FORM
SUCH ASSISTANCE MIGHT TAKE BEFORE THE SHAPE OF ANY AGREEMENT WITH
DUBLIN WAS CLEAR.

8. MR HURD HAS NOW LEFT FOR A SERIES OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS
IN NEW YORK, CHICAGO, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES.

COMMENT

9. THIS WAS A MOST SUCCESSFUL FIRST VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY
MR HURD AS NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY. I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO
HIM FOR TAKING ON SUCH A HEAVY PROGRAMME, BUT I AM SURE IT WILL
PAY DIVIDENDS IN THE FORM OF INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF THE
DEEP-SEATED NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS AND OF ENHANCED CREDIBILITY
OF OUR SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE IN TACKLING THEM.

10. THE VISIT WAS WELL TIMED, GIVEN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF INTEREST
IN THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN LONDON AND DUBLIN. DESPITE A FEW
PREDICTABLE BUT LOW-KEY QUESTIONS FROM THE BIAGGI GROUP, I
THINK HE FOUND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION PREPARED TO TAKE US AT OUR
WORD AND AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE TWO-TRACK POLICY: THE ANGLO-
IRISH PROCESS AND THE PATTEN CONSULTATIONS. IF THAT
OUTCOME IS SUCCESSFUL IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE
BACKING IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS FOR US HELP TOWARDS
NORTHERN IRELAND'S ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION.

11. MR HURD SOUGHT TO CORRECT THE WIDESPREAD IMPRESSION THAT THE
ONLY THING NEEDED TO SOLVE THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM WAS AN
AGREEMENT BETWEEN LONDON AND DUBLIN; BUT IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM THAT
THIS IMPRESSION WAS DEEPLY ROOTED HERE, AND THAT IT HELD SOME
DANGERS FOR THE FUTURE.

12. IT IS NOW UP TO ME AND MY STAFF TO FOLLOW UP AND CONSOLIDATE
WHAT MR HURD HAS ACHIEVED. BUT TO DO SO, WE SHALL NEED TO BE KEPT
MORE CLOSELY IN THE PICTURE THAN WE HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST; IN FACT,
AS CLOSELY IN THE PICTURE AS MY IRISH COLLEAGUE IS. MR HURD
AGREES WITH THIS AND HAS AUTHORISED ME TO SAY SO, SO I HOPE, SIR,
YOU WILL AUTHORISE YOUR DEPARTMENT TO PASS TO US THE AMMUNITION
WE NEED.

13. PLEASE PASS ADVANCE COPIES TO WARD (APS/S OF S, NIO),
LYON (NIO), CLARK (RID, FCO) AND GILLILAND (NIO, B).

WRIGHT

NNNN