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FM LISBON 060119Z JUN 85  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 289 OF 5 JUNE.

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE OFFICE FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

**SECRETARY OF STATES BILATERAL WITH SHULTZ : NORTHERN IRELAND**

1. SHULTZ ASKED THE SECRETARY OF STATE IF HE COULD SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT.
  
2. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT THE E C HAD BEEN HELPFUL IN CREATING THE KIND OF FRAMEWORK IN WHICH WE AND THE IRISH GOVERNMENT COULD TALK MORE EASILY ABOUT DIFFICULT AND LONGSTANDING PROBLEMS. THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS WERE BEING CONDUCTED SERIOUSLY BY BOTH SIDES. THEY WERE NOT DIRECTED TOWARDS REACHING A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION OF THE IRISH PROBLEM, BUT WERE AIMED AT ACHIEVING FORWARD MOVEMENT TOWARDS A NEW STAGE IN THE RELATIONSHIP. SHULTZ WOULD UNDERSTAND IF HE DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT THE NEGOTIATION, BUT HE COULD ASSURE HIM THAT BOTH SIDES WERE TRAVELLING HOPEFULLY. THE OUTCOME WAS STILL BY NO MEANS CERTAIN. WE WERE DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF GREAT HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY.
  
3. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WAS A CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH THAT WE FACED A COMMON ENEMY IN TERRORISM. THIS WAS HELPFUL. WE ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATED U.S. SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOUR AND WERE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR THE ADMINISTRATIONS MOVES ON EXTRADITION. WE WONDERED WHETHER THERE WERE LIKELY TO BE ANY PROBLEMS IN HANDLING THE NEXT STAGE IN CONGRESS.
  
4. BURT SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY SERIOUS PROBLEM. THE IRISH LOBBY WAS NOT GETTING EXCITED. CONGRESS WAS CONTINUALLY PRESSING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A MORE DIRECT ROLE IN THE IRISH NEGOTIATIONS. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS QUITE DETERMINED NOT TO DO THIS. BURT OBSERVED THAT FITZGERALDS GOVERNMENT PRESENTED THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR YEARS FOR REASONABLE NEGOTIATIONS.

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5. THE SECRETARY OF STATE AGREED, -ADDING THAT FITZGERALD ALSO RECOGNISED THAT IN MRS THATCHER HE HAD A PRIME MINISTER WHO WOULD CARRY OUT FAITHFULLY ANY ENGAGEMENTS WE MIGHT UNDERTAKE. THIS WAS ALSO A VERY HELPFUL ELEMENT. WE APPRECIATED THE U.S. ATTITUDE ON THE GENERAL ISSUE, AND COULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AT SOME STAGE THE IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, IF AGREEMENTT WAS REACHED, MIGHT ALSO LOOK FOR AN ECONOMIC GESTURE IN THIS CONTEXT.

6. IF DAVID GOODALL AGREES, YOU MIGHT REPEAT THIS TELEGRAM TO WASHINGTON AND DUBLIN.

BYATT

LIMITED  
HEAD/RID  
HEAD/NAD  
PS  
PS/PUS  
MR GOODALL

COPIES TO:  
PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
PS/S OF S NIO  
SIR R ARMSTRONG, CABINET OFFICE  
PS/PUS NIO

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