

ADVANCE COPIES

29

NORTHERN IRELAND

PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/PUS  
MR GOODALL

PS/ S of S  
PS/MR R ANDREW, OAB 1/56  
MR BRENNAN  
MR BURNS  
MR PN BELL

NIO

HD/RID  
Dep. HD/FUSD (2)  
HD/INFO DEPT  
HD/NEWS DEPT

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

CONFIDENTIAL

FM DUBLIN

TO DESKBY 211200Z FCO

TELNO 803

OF 211110Z NOVEMBER 85

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO (BELFAST), WASHINGTON AND BIS NEW YORK

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

MY TELNOS 798-800: ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT: DAIL DEBATE

SUMMARY

1. UNDER PRESSURE FROM HIS PARTY MR HAUGHEY IS ADOPTING A MORE CONCILIATORY LINE ON THE AGREEMENT. THE TAOISEACH IS VERY CHEERFUL AND EXPECTS A MAJORITY OF 14 FOR THE AGREEMENT.

[actually 13]

DETAIL

2. I MET DR FITZGERALD AT A SOCIAL OCCASION LAST NIGHT. HE WAS IN EBULLIENT FORM. HE SAID THAT THE FIANNA FAIL PARTY MEETING THAT MORNING HAD PUT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON MR HAUGHEY TO MODERATE HIS LINE OVER THE AGREEMENT. A PROPOSAL THAT AFTER THE DEFEAT OF THEIR AMENDMENT FIANNA FAIL SHOULD ABSTAIN ON THE MOTION ENDORSING THE AGREEMENT RATHER THAN VOTE AGAINST IT HAD SOME SUPPORT, AND MR HAUGHEY HAD ONLY BEEN ABLE TO BRING THE DISCUSSION TO A HALT BY INSISTING THAT THE DECISION BE TAKEN BY THE FRONT BENCH GROUP AND NOT BY THE PARTY AS A WHOLE. (THIS GROUP, WHO ARE ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON HIM, SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED TO VOTE AGAINST THE MOTION.) DR FITZGERALD WAS VERY HAPPY AT THE DEFECTION OF MISS MARY HARNEY FROM FIANNA FAIL. HIS PARTY HAD BEEN TRYING TO EVADE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE DAIL TO ENABLE HER TO SPEAK BUT THE PLOT HAD GOT OUT AND HAD FAILED. NEVERTHELESS, HE BELIEVED THAT WITH HER DEFECTION THE GOVERNMENT MAJORITY WOULD BE 14, WHICH I BELIEVE TO BE THE HIGHEST SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE AT THE END OF 1982.

3. THE PRESS PUBLISHES SOME ACCOUNT OF THIS INTENSE PARTY ACTIVITY YESTERDAY, WHICH ENDED WITH MR HAUGHEY DECLARING PUBLICLY THAT IF THOSE WHO WERE COMMITTED TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE COULD USE IT 'TO AMELIORATE THE CONDITION OF THE NATIONALIST COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND, WE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT WISH TO PUT ANY DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR WAY.'

GOODISON

YYYY

DLLNAN 0524