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TO DESKBY 110900Z DUBLIN  
TELNO 55  
OF 101600Z MARCH 86  
AND TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON

MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND MR BARRY IN BRUSSELS  
ON 10 MARCH : NORTHERN IRELAND

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD A BILATERAL MEETING WITH MR BARRY ON 10 MARCH IN THE MARGINS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS. THE FOLLOWING IS A RECORD OF THEIR DISCUSSION ON NON-EC MATTERS.
2. MR BARRY BEGAN BY SAYING THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT NEWS OF HIS PLANNED MEETING WITH MR KING ON 11 MARCH HAD LEAKED TO THE PRESS. TURNING TO THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND, HE COMMENTED THAT WHILE THE UNIONIST OPPOSITION TO THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SHARPER THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE RECENT STRIKE HAD FRIGHTENED MANY MODERATES IN THE UNIONIST CAMP. IT HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN 'A BIG TURN-OFF' IN THE UK. THE SECRETARY OF STATE AGREED THAT THIS WAS SO, BUT NOTED THAT THE RESULT OF THE STRIKE MIGHT WELL BE TO FEED BOTH SIDES OF THE ARGUMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND, SINCE THE EXTREMISTS COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO FEEL THEY NEEDED TO TAKE EVEN MORE VIOLENT ACTION NEXT TIME TO MAKE THEIR POINT MORE PLAINLY. A FURTHER PROBLEM WAS THAT IT WAS STILL NOT CLEAR WHO WAS GOING TO EMERGE TO LEAD THE MODERATES.
3. MR BARRY SAID THE IRISH GOVERNMENT THOUGHT IT CRUCIAL THAT

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BOTH DUBLIN AND LONDON SHOULD CONTINUE TO SHOW THEMSELVES FULLY COMMITTED TO THE AGREEMENT, NOT BENDING AN INCH. WAYS DID HOWEVER NEED TO BE FOUND OF ENCOURAGING MOLYNEAUX (AND IF POSSIBLE PAISLEY) TO SIT DOWN WITH HUME AND TALK DEVOLUTION. HE THOUGHT THE SDLP HAD BEEN BEHAVING QUITE WELL, GIVEN THE TENUOUS GRIP THEY HAD ON THE VOTES WHICH THEY HAD BORROWED FROM SINN FEIN.

4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID IT WAS OF COURSE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR ALL CONCERNED TO AVOID MAKING STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD INFLAME THE UNIONISTS. EXAMPLES OF UNHELPFUL STATEMENTS FROM DUBLIN HAD BEEN ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S LATEST MESSAGE TO THE TAOISEACH, DELIVERED OVER THE WEEKEND. MR BARRY SAID HE HAD SEEN A COPY OF THE LETTER: THE STATEMENTS REFERRED TO IN IT HAD ALL BEEN MADE SOME TIME AGO.

5. MR BARRY THEN RAISED THE POINT WHICH THE TAOISEACH HAD PUT TO THE PRIME MINISTER IN THEIR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION ON 7 MARCH, CONCERNING PRESSURE WHICH THE UK HAD ALLEGEDLY PUT ON THE WHITE HOUSE TO GET THE AMERICANS TO PLAY DOWN THE TAOISEACH'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER REGRETTED THAT THE TAOISEACH HAD FELT IT RIGHT TO SPEAK AS HE HAD, AND THAT HE HAD GIVEN IMPLICIT CREDENCE TO THE IDEA. IT WAS QUITE CLEAR THAT NO REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO THE WHITE HOUSE. MR BARRY SAID THEY HAD PERHAPS BEEN MADE THROUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SET OUT CLEARLY THE BACKGROUND, STRESSING THE NEED TO AVOID LAUNCHING THE US CONTRIBUTION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE TROUBLE WITH UNIONISTS. OUR AIM HAD BEEN TO AVOID LINKING THE LAUNCH TO THE ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS. MR BARRY SAID HE SAW THE FORCE OF THIS, THOUGH IT WAS RELEVANT THAT IT HAD BEEN PRESIDENT REAGAN HIMSELF WHO HAD CHOSEN TO ARRANGE THE CEREMONY FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN DISMAYED THAT THE TAOISEACH HAD INTERPRETED WHAT HAD BEEN MEANT TO BE AN ENTIRELY BENIGN UK INTERVENTION IN A QUITE DIFFERENT WAY. MR BARRY SAID THE TROUBLE HAD BEEN THAT IT HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO HIM IN THIS WAY. THE TAOISEACH HAD HOWEVER BEEN VERY WELL SATISFIED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S REACTION.

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6. IN DISCUSSION IT WAS AGREED THAT IT WAS HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO ESTABLISH A PATTERN OF REGULARITY FOR MEETINGS OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE (IGC). MR BARRY SAID IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO DESIGNATE ONE DAY A MONTH FOR SUCH A MEETING, THOUGH OBVIOUSLY THE SECURITY ANGLE WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE PRIME AIM SHOULD BE TO MAKE MEETINGS OF THE IGC ROUTINE AFFAIRS, AND TO DE-DRAMATISE THE ENTIRE PROCESS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE MADE PLAIN THAT HE VERY MUCH AGREED.

7. REVERTING TO THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE UNIONIST COMMUNITY, MR BARRY POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD BEFORE LONG BE RENEWED PROBLEMS WITH THE NATIONALISTS AS WELL. HE POINTED TO A RECENT SPEECH HAUGHEY HAD MADE IN THE US, SAYING THAT THE AGREEMENT PROVIDED NOTHING FOR THE NATIONALIST COMMUNITY.

HOWE

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R/D

NAIS

RS

RS/LADY YOUNG

RS/RUS

MR GOODALL

MR HOUSTON

COPIES TO

MR BELL, NIO (L)

MR CHESTERTON, NIO (L)

MR BRENNAN, NIO (L)

SIR R ARMSTRONG, CAB OFF

MR MALLABY, CAB OFF

MR POWELL, NO 10 DOWNING ST

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