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DD 201130Z DUBLI
FM FCOLN TO DUBLI
200955Z NOV
GRS 455

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T218/86

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FM FCO
TO DESKBY 201130Z DUBLIN
TELNO 199
OF 200955Z NOV 86

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO DR FITZGERALD. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR EARLY DELIVERY, TOGETHER WITH TEXT OF THE PRESS STATEMENT (VERBATIM SERIES 65). SEPARATE MESSAGES HAVE GONE TO OTHER EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

'YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE OUTCOME OF MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN IN WASHINGTON ON 15 NOVEMBER. THIS WAS A NATIONAL, NOT A PRESIDENCY OCCASION, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU A SUMMARY ACCOUNT OF THE MAIN TOPICS WE TOUCHED ON.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF MY VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS ARMS CONTROL AND DEFENCE ISSUES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT NOW UNDERSTANDS MORE FULLY THE NATURE AND BASIS OF EUROPEAN CONCERNS ABOUT SOME OF THE PROPOSALS DISCUSSED AT THE REYKJAVIK MEETING.

THE PRESIDENT STRESSED TO ME THE CONTINUING NEED FOR EFFECTIVE NUCLEAR DETERRENCE, AND HIS DETERMINATION TO PROCEED WITH THE MODERNISATION OF THE UNITED STATES STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILE FORCE. NOTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED AT REYKJAVIK CHANGED THAT. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AGAINST

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A BACKGROUND OF STRENGTH. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED USEFULLY THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD NOT BE DEALT WITH IN ISOLATION, AND THAT THERE MUST BE A STABLE OVERALL BALANCE AT ALL TIMES.

THE STATEMENT WHICH PRESIDENT REAGAN AND I ENDORSED (OF WHICH I ENCLOSE A COPY) REPRESENTS A VALUABLE REAFFIRMATION OF NATO'S FUNDAMENTAL STRATEGY OF WHICH YOU MAY WISH TO BE AWARE.

I ALSO DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE UNITED STATES ACTION ON SYRIA AND EXPLAINED THE MEASURES WHICH OUR OWN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD AGREED TO TAKE ON 10 NOVEMBER. I OUTLINED OUR OWN APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, NOTED OUR CONCERN AT THE CONTINUED STALEMATE AND URGED HIM TO LOOK AT WAYS TO GIVE FRESH IMPETUS TO THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE AGREED ON THE NEED FOR MOVEMENT BUT DID NOT INDICATE THAT ANY EARLY MOVES ARE IN PROSPECT FROM WASHINGTON.

ON IRAN, THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT PAY RANSOM FOR HOSTAGES. I CONFIRMED THAT THAT WAS THE UNITED KINGDOM'S POLICY TOO. WE AGREED THAT AN END TO THE GULF WAR AND BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE WEST WERE HIGHLY DESIRABLE, BUT THAT WE SHOULD REMAIN STRICTLY IMPARTIAL AS BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ.

WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC DEATH OF PRESIDENT MACHEL. WE AGREED THAT A PEACEFUL NATIONAL DIALOGUE IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS ESSENTIAL, AND THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR WAYS OF PERSUADING PRESIDENT BOTHA TO CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH GENUINE POLITICAL DIALOGUE COULD START.'

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