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NO 10 DOWNING STREET

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM DUBLIN 1200Z AUGUST 1980
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 221 OF 08 AUGUST 1980
AND REPEATED FOR INFO TO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST

ra
MA

NEXT MEETING BETWEEN MRS THATCHER AND MR HAUGHEY

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THIS MORNING'S IRISH TIMES LEAD STORY BY GERALDINE KENNEDY HEADLINED QUOTE THATCHER TO VISIT DUBLIN FOR TALKS LATER THIS YEAR UNQUOTE.
2. THE STORY UNDERNEATH THIS SOMEWHAT MISLEADING HEADLINE IS REASONABLY BALANCED AND A LOT LESS DEFINITE. THE DFA WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH SEE NO REASON TO QUARREL WITH IT. THE STORY IS NOT THE RESULT OF A DELIBERATE LEAK BY THE IRISH BUT IS BASED ON A NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS GERALDINE KENNEDY HAS HAD OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE INCLUDING THE HEAD OF CHANCERY.
3. THE IRISH INTEND TO TAKE THE LINE THAT THEY CANNOT CONFIRM OR DENY THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A VISIT, POINTING OUT THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE A REASONABLE PRESUMPTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE MAY COMMUNIQUE THAT A SECOND MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE AROUND THE END OF THE YEAR AND THAT THERE MIGHT BE AN ALTERNATION OF MEETINGS BETWEEN LONDON AND DUBLIN, NO FIRM DECISIONS HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN.

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