

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 470

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 021100Z

FM DUBLIN 021020Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO DESKBY 021100Z

TELEGRAM NUMBER 326 OF 2 NOVEMBER 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO LONDON, NIO BELFAST

ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT: 7 NOVEMBER

1. DR FITZGERALD IS APPROACHING THE SUMMIT WITH THREE PRINCIPAL AIMS:

(A) HE WANTS TO CONVINCING THE IRISH PUBLIC THAT HE HAS BROUGHT ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS BACK TO NORMAL AND THAT, UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, HE CAN CONDUCT A DIALOGUE WITH HMG AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN WHICH ALL PROBLEMS CAN BE DISCUSSED.

(B) HE WANTS TO EXPLORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL THINKING ON NORTHERN IRELAND, IN ADVANCE OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE NEW IRELAND FORUM, SO THAT WHEN THE FORUM HAS REPORTED HE CAN, IF HE WISHES, PUT PROPOSALS TO HER WITH SOME IDEA OF THEIR ACCEPTABILITY. HE WANTS TO DO THIS COMPLETELY IN CONFIDENCE, BOTH BECAUSE HIS IDEAS ARE BY NO MEANS CUT AND DRIED AND BECAUSE HE CANNOT AND MUST NOT BE SEEN TO ANTICIPATE THE REPORT OF THE FORUM OR TO OFFER THE PRIME MINISTER A SAY IN IT. HE IS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MINORITY IN THE NORTH AND THE SECURITY FORCES. HE MAY ASK THE PRIME MINISTER WHETHER THERE IS A ROLE TO BE PLAYED IN THE NORTH BY THE GARDA. HE HOPES THAT THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE FORUM WILL DISPEL WHAT HE CALLS THE NATIONALIST MYTHS, THAT IS TO SAY THAT ITS REPORT WILL INCLUDE A RECOGNITION THAT THE UNIONISTS IN THE NORTH HOLD LEGITIMATE VIEWS AND THAT THE OPINION OF THE MAJORITY OUGHT NOT TO BE OVERRULED. HE IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ADVANCE OF PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN, WHICH HOLDS DANGERS FOR HIM AS WELL AS THE SDLP. HE IS LOOKING FOR WAYS OF HELPING THE SDLP.

(C) HE WANTS THE PRIME MINISTER'S HELP IN THE EC TO DEFEAT THE PROPOSAL FOR A MILK SUPER LEVY. HE KNOWS WE ARE NOT ADVOCATING IT. MEANWHILE, HE ACCEPTS IN PRINCIPLE OUR CASE FOR SOME KIND OF SAFETY-NET, AND NO DOUBT HOPES TO MAKE A BARGAIN ON THAT BASIS. IT IS VITAL FOR HIM DOMESTICALLY TO AVERT THE THREAT OF A CLAMP-DOWN ON THE GROWTH OF IRISH MILK PRODUCTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

/2

CONFIDENTIAL

2. IN COMING TO LONDON HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF A SUCCESSFUL PARTY CONFERENCE BEHIND HIM, IN WHICH HE REUNITED FINE GAEL UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP AFTER THE STRAINS TO WHICH IT HAD BEEN SUBJECTED OVER THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM ON ABORTION. HIS COALITION PARTNERS, THE LABOUR PARTY, UNHAPPY THOUGH THEY ARE WITH HIS RESTRICTIVE ECONOMIC POLICY, HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO AND ARE UNLIKELY TO DESERT HIM. MR SPRING, THEIR LEADER, NEEDS TO BE SEEN TO BE PRESENT AT THE SUMMIT BUT NEITHER HE NOR DR FITZGERALD EXPECTS HIM TO HAVE A SUBSTANTIVE ROLE TO PLAY. MR HAUGHEY IS TRYING TO SPLIT THE COALITION BY CALLING FOR 'SELF FINANCING' TAX CUTS. THERE IS A GENERAL RECOGNITION HERE THAT THIS IS ECONOMIC NONSENSE AND A POLITICAL GAME. MR HAUGHEY HAS SUFFERED FURTHER FROM THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATOR TO RUN HIS FAVOURITE INSURANCE COMPANY IN VIEW OF ITS INABILITY TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS. THERE ARE DIFFICULT CHOICES FOR DR FITZGERALD TO MAKE OVER NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET, BUT NOT YET.

3. WHILE THE TAOISEACH WILL WISH TO TRY HIS IDEAS OUT ON THE PRIME MINISTER, HE WILL, I THINK, BE CONTENT WITH GENERAL REACTIONS RATHER THAN SPECIFIC RESPONSES OVER NORTHERN IRELAND. ON THE EC HE WILL HOPE FOR SOMETHING MORE.

GOODISON

LIMITED

RID

ECOD(1)

INFO D

NEWS D

PUSD

PS

PS | LADY YOUNG

PS | MR WHITNEY

PS | MR RIFKIND

PS | PUS

SIR J BULLARD

MR HANNAY

CONFIDENTIAL