

172 MAY 1982

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FM DUBLIN 121055Z MAY 1982

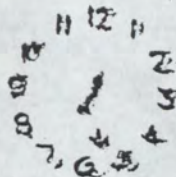
TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 144 OF 12 MAY

AND TO INFO IMMEDIATE BRUSSELS, PARIS, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG, BONN, ATHENS, ROME, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKMIS GENEVA, WASHINGTON.

MY TELNO 142: FALKLANDS

1. MR HAUGHEY'S CONTINUING UNHELPFUL POLICY, WHICH WAS EVIDENT IN HIS SPEECH YESTERDAY, HAS BEEN STRONGLY CRITICISED BY DR FITZGERALD. THE LATTER REFERRED IN HIS SPEECH TO " THE UNNECESSARY BREACH WITH BRITAIN BROUGHT ABOUT BY AN ATTEMPT TO USE THIS ISSUE TO PLAY FOR VOTES AT HOME ". THIS REFERS TO THE FORTHCOMING BY-ELECTION IN WEST DUBLIN TO FILL THE SEAT VACATED BY DICK BURKE THE NEW E E C COMMISSIONER. I THINK DR FITZGERALD IS RIGHT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE CONSIDERATIONS PUT FORWARD IN MY TELNO 121, PARAGRAPH TWO, STILL APPLY. FIRST, MR HAUGHEY MUST CONTINUE TO KEEP THE CONFIDENCE OF BLANEY, THE DAIL'S



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MUST CONTINUE TO KEEP THE CONFIDENCE OF BLANEY, THE DAHL'S LEADING ANGLOPHOBE, WHOSE VOTE IS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THE PRECARIOUS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. SECONDLY, THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE HAS MADE THE REPUBLICAN WING OF FIANNA FAIL MORE VOCAL AND THEIR ANTI-BRITISH ATTITUDE, WHICH IS NEVER FAR BELOW THE SURFACE, IS REVEALING ITSELF QUITE WIDELY. THERE IS IN FACT A DIVISION IN IRISH FEELING AS REFLECTED BY THE STATEMENTS IN THE DAIL YESTERDAY. I WOULD VENTURE TO SUGGEST THAT THE MAJORITY OF IRISH PEOPLE WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE AND, WHILE REGRETTING THE WAY THINGS HAVE DEVELOPED IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, PARTICULARLY THE LOSS OF LIFE, UNDERSTAND BRITAIN'S POSITION AND WHY WE ARE DOING WHAT WE ARE DOING.

2. I MUST, HOWEVER, POINT OUT THAT WHILE DR FITZGERALD WAS PRETTY CRITICAL OF RECENT IRISH GOVERNMENT POLICY HE DID SAY IN HIS SPEECH THAT THE PRESENT FALKLANDS DISPUTE " IS BASED ON ISSUES OF PRIDE AND FEAR OF LOSS OF FACE, ISSUES WHICH SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO BE THE OCCASION FOR LOSS OF LIFE ". I HAD PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED TO SEE HIM THIS EVENING AND WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY AND STRAIGHTEN HIM OUT.

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SENT AT / RECDAT 12/1115Z DH/1A