

GRS 300
RESTRICTED
FROM ROME 061615Z OCT 81
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 398 OF 06 OCT 81

RESTRICTED

M.

Ireland

INFO SAVING : BELFAST, DUBLIN, PARIS, BONN, WASHINGTON,
BIS NY, HOLY SEE (ACTIONED)

END OF IRA HUNGER STRIKES: ITALIAN PRESS REACTIONS

1. THE END OF THE HUNGER STRIKES IS SEEN AS A VICTORY FOR HMG'S POLICY. THE ITALIAN PRESS GENERALLY SAYS THAT THE HUNGER STRIKERS GAVE UP BECAUSE THEIR STRIKE WAS NOT ACHIEVING ANYTHING. ON THE OTHER HAND, LA STAMPA (CENTRE, FIAT-OWNED) SAYS THAT THE HUNGER STRIKE ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE PROPAGANDA OVERSEAS AND GATHERED FUNDS, PARTICULARLY FROM THE US, WHICH WILL BE USED TO BUY MORE ARMS. MOST PAPERS RECOGNISE THAT THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN IRELAND REMAIN AS THEY WERE BEFORE THE HUNGER STRIKES AND IL MESSAGGERO (LEFT OF CENTRE) SAYS THERE MAY BE A NEW BRITISH INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED IN THE QUEEN'S SPEECH. LA REPUBBLICA (LEFTWING) GIVES CREDIT TO MR PRIOR FOR THE ENDING OF THE STRIKE. L'UNITA (COMMUNIST) SAYS THAT THE END OF THE HUNGER STRIKE IS A GESTURE OF PEACE BY THE STRIKERS.

2. MOST PAPERS RECOGNISE THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE FAMILIES OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS. ONE QUOTES A RADIO VATICAN INTERVIEW WITH MGR EDWARD DALY CALLING FOR MAGNANIMITY ON THE PART OF HMG, WHO SHOULD NOW IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE.

3. THE MOST DISAGREEABLE ARTICLE WAS BY CIANFANELLI OF CORRIERE DELLA SERA (CENTRE) HE QUOTES FROM AN ARTICLE BY MARY HOLLAND IN THE "NEW STATESMAN" AND REFERS WITHOUT QUALIFICATION TO THE "MILITARY OCCUPATION" OF NORTHERN IRELAND. THE TONE OF THIS ARTICLE, WHICH WILL BE WIDELY READ HERE, DEMONSTRATES AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF LONDON-BASED CORRESPONDENTS IN THE PROPAGANDA BATTLE ON NORTHERN IRELAND. WE SHALL SEND BY BAG A TRANSLATION OF CIANFANELLI'S ARTICLE, AND HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE IT UP WITH HIM.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES
ARCULUS

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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