

PS TO PM. NO 10. DOWNING STREET.

CONFIDENTIAL

GR 250

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 242322Z JAN 84

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 270 OF 24 JANUARY

INFO PRIORITY NIO LONDON, NIO BELFAST, DUBLIN, BIS NEW YORK.
INFO SAVING, CGS NEW YORK, BOSTON, CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO.

VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE IRISH PRIME MINISTER

1. THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND IRISH EMBASSY HAVE TOLD US THAT DR FITZGERALD, PROBABLY ACCOMPANIED BY THE IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER, WILL VISIT WASHINGTON ON 16-18 MARCH. HE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET PRESIDENT REAGAN ON 16 MARCH, BUT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED HOW, APART FROM THE ARRIVAL STATEMENT, THE PRESIDENT WILL MARK ST PATRICK'S DAY ITSELF.

2. DR FITZGERALD IS LIKELY TO ARRIVE IN THE UNITED STATES ON 11 MARCH AND TO VISIT NEW YORK AND BOSTON BEFORE TRAVELLING TO WASHINGTON. THE IRISH EMBASSY SAY THAT THE PROGRAMME HAS NOT YET BEEN FINALISED. POSSIBLE VISITS TO CHICAGO AND THE WEST COAST ARE ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION, THOUGH AT PRESENT NEW YORK AND BOSTON HAVE PRIORITY. DR FITZGERALD PLANS TO RETURN TO DUBLIN VIA NEW YORK LATE ON 18 MARCH.

3. WE SHALL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE ADMINISTRATION ABOUT DR FITZGERALD'S VISIT AND THE PRESIDENT'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY STATEMENT. THE TIMING OF THE VISIT WILL PROVIDE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WITH A FURTHER INCENTIVE TO TRY TO STICK TO THE TIMETABLE FOR PUBLICATION OF THE NEW IRELAND FORUM REPORT.

WRIGHT

NORTHERN IRELAND
LIMITED

RID
NAD
INFO D
WED
MAED
NEWS D
PUSD
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
MR WRIGHT
LORD N GORDON LENNOX
SIR W HARDING
MR ADAMS
MR JENKINS
MR URE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN IRELAND

CONFIDENTIAL