

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR RENTON

PS/S. DE S
PS/ MR R. ANDREW
OAB 1/56

PS/PDS

MR BERRYMAN

~~SIR J. SUMMERS~~

MR ~~AND~~ BURNS

MR JENKINS

J. LYON
~~MR BOYD SMITH~~

NIO

ED/PID

SIR B ARMSTRONG

CABINET

ED/PUSD (2)

DIO

ED INFO D

ED/NEWS D

IMMEDIATE

RESIDENT CLOCK

PS/No 10 DOWNING STREET (3)

UNCLASSIFIED

FM WASHINGTON 172206Z OCT 84

TO IMMEDIATE ECO
TELNO 3103 OF 17 OCTOBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO LONDON, NIO BELFAST, PRIORITY DUBLIN, PIS
NEW YORK

INFO SAVING ALL US POSTS

BRIGHTON BOMBING: US MEDIA COMMENTS.

SUMMARY

1. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE BRIGHTON BOMBING AND ITS AFTERMATH HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES WITH CONSTANT COVERAGE OVER THE WEEKEND ON RADIO AND TV. NEWSPAPERS WERE FILLED WITH EVERY DETAIL OF THE HORROR, EMPHASISING THE COURAGE OF THE INJURED AND THE FORTITUDE, COMPASSION AND DEFIANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS CONTAINED WIDESPREAD AND DOWNRIGHT CONDEMNATION OF THE IRA, AND ITS UNITED STATES SUPPORTERS AND APOLOGISTS. THE MESSAGE THAT THE BOMBING WAS AN ATTACK ON DEMOCRACY CAME ACROSS CLEARLY. MOST EDITORIALS ALSO REFLECTED HOPES THAT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH DR FITZGERALD MIGHT BEAR FRUIT.

DETAILS

3. THE NEW YORK TIMES SAID THAT OUTSIDE THE SLUMS OF NORTHERN IRELAND THE IRA SPOKE ONLY FOR ITSELF, AND CITED RECENT POLLS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS REJECTION BY THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND. THE EDITORIAL SAID QUOTE SMALL WONDER THE IRA HAS TURNED OVERSEAS FOR SUPPORT IT CANNOT FIND IN DUBLIN, PLAYING ON THE GULLIBILITY OF A SMALL MINORITY AMONG THE 40 MILLION AMERICANS OF IRISH DESCENT. THE

SMALL MINORITY AMONG THE 40 MILLION AMERICANS OF IRISH DESCENT. THE NEXT TIME THE HAT IS PASSED, THOSE TEMPTED TO CONTRIBUTE SHOULD ASK HOW THEY WOULD FEEL IF MONEY WERE RAISED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY TO FINANCE AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. UNQUOTE IT SPOKE OF THE IRA'S AIMS BEING TO DESTROY DEMOCRACY, AND OF ITS USE OF BOMBS TO DISGUISE ITS LACK OF REAL SUPPORT. THE TIMES SAW THE REAL TARGET OF BRIGHTON BEING MRS THATCHER JUST A MONTH BEFORE SHE COULD MEET DR. FITZGERALD TO DISCUSS QUOTE NEW IDEAS FOR GIVING MORE RIGHTS TO 500,000 CATHOLICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, IDEAS PREVIOUSLY OPPOSED BY HARD-LINERS AMONG A MILLION PROTESTANTS, THE CATHOLICS HISTORIC OPPRESSORS. PROTESTANT ZEALOTRY AND VIOLENCE FINDS ITS MATCH IN THE IRA'S DETERMINATION TO WRECK ANY DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVES THAT FALL SHORT OF IMPOSING A UNITED IRISH SOCIALIST REPUBLIC. UNQUOTE

4. THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS ALSO UNDERLINED THAT THE LARGE MAJORITY OF IRISH PEOPLE LIVING IN IRELAND REPUDIATE AND DETEST THE IRA, SAYING QUOTE IT'S ABSURD AND UNDEMOCRATIC THAT PEOPLES WHOSE ANCESTORS LEFT IRELAND YEARS AGO CLAIM TO KNOW BETTER THAN PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN DUBLIN OR BELFAST HOW THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH SHOULD BE RESOLVED... THE GUNMEN HAVE PUT BACK IRISH REUNIFICATION BY AT LEAST A GENERATION. UNQUOTE THE BOMBING WAS AN ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE DIALOGUE BETWEEN LONDON AND DUBLIN STARTED BY THE NEW IRELAND FORUM. THE EDITORIAL TALKED OF IRA TERRORISM BEING COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR YEARS, ASSERTING THAT THE IRA CANNOT MAKE A MILLION PEOPLE CHANGE THEIR MINDS BY MURDERING A FEW OF THEM, NOR COULD THEY CHANGE POLICY BY BOMBING THE GOVERNMENT. IT SAID QUOTE IT HAS BECOME PATHOLOGICAL, MURDER FOR THE SAKE OF MURDER, TO PROVE THEY ARE STILL CAPABLE OF IT. UNQUOTE

5. THE NEW YORK POST SAID THE BOMBING WAS AN EFFORT TO DESTROY LAWFUL GOVERNMENT AND DECLARED THAT TERRORISTS WOULD NEVER WIN. SO LONG AS FREE PEOPLE REFUSED TO QUOTE SUBMIT TO THEIR BLOOD-STAINED BLACKMAIL THE TERRORISTS WILL ALWAYS BE RENDERED IMPOTENT. UNQUOTE THE STATE LEDGER OF NEW JERSEY SAID THE BOMBING WOULD UNDERSCORE THE FUTILITY OF IRA DESIGNS TO DESTROY DEMOCRACY IN NORTHERN IRELAND BECAUSE IT QUOTE LACKS THE BROAD-BASED SUPPORT TO LEGITIMISE ITS OBJECTIVE OF A UNITED IRELAND. UNQUOTE THERE WAS NOW MORE NEED THAN EVER FOR MRS THATCHER TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS TO MEET DR FITZGERALD SOON TO DISCUSS NEW INITIATIVES TO EXTEND MORE RIGHTS TO THE NORTH'S CATHOLICS.

6. THE WASHINGTON POST RECALLED PAST IRA ATROCITIES, INCLUDING THE MURDERS OF AIREY NEAVE AND LORD MOUNTBATTEN, SAYING THAT AMERICANS SHARE HEAVILY IN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM THROUGH THEIR FUND-RAISING. IT CONCLUDED QUOTE AMERICANS OF CONSCIENCE MUST REJECT THIS VIOLENCE AND REJECT ASSOCIATION WITH THE KILLERS WHOSE COWARDLY ACTS OF MURDER AND MAYHEM ARE DESPISED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC. UNQUOTE THE WASHINGTON TIMES CALLED THE KILLINGS THE WORK OF THE IRA QUOTE A GANGSTER GROUP THAT FINDS MURDER AND MUTILATION EASIER THAN WINNING PEOPLE'S MINDS, UNQUOTE THE BALTIMORE SUN QUOTED AT LENGTH FROM DR FITZGERALD'S STATEMENT ATTACKING THE IRA, AND EXPRESSED THE CONFIDENT HOPE THAT THESE EVENTS WOULD NOT DISRUPT THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH DR FITZGERALD, NOR HERE READINESS TO BACK A NEW INITIATIVE.

7. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID THE BOMBING MUST NOT PREVENT USEFUL DIALOGUE OVER THE FUTURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. IT ILLUSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE OF REMOVING THE CAUSES FOR DISSENSION IN NORTHERN IRELAND UPON WHICH VIOLENCE CAN FEED. THE MONITOR SAW MERIT IN THE FORUM REPORT, WHILE ACCEPTING THE DIFFICULTIES FACING HMG IN MOVING FORWARD WITHOUT UNDER-CUTTING THE QUOTE POSITION AND LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF THE ULSTER LOYALISTS. UNQUOTE

8. THE BOSTON GLOBE FELL SHORT OF CONDEMNING THE BOMBING CALLING IT A QUOTE GRIM DEVELOPMENT IN BRITISH LIFE. UNQUOTE IT REFERRED TO THE FANATICS OF THE IRA BUT INSISTED THAT SOMETHING MORE WAS NEEDED THAN QUIET COURAGE AND GOOD POLICE WORK. THERE HAD TO BE A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR POLITICAL LIFE IN NORTHERN IRELAND: IT POINTED TO THE FORUM REPORT AS BEING THE GUIDE FOR BOTH BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS.

9. THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER NEWDAY SAID THE CAUSE OF IRISH UNITY WAS NOT ADVANCED BY THE DEED - ALL IT DID WAS TO ILLUSTRATE THE IRA'S IMMENSE POTENTIAL FOR HARM. THE BOMBING WAS A CALCULATED VFRONTAL ATTACK ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, AND AN ATTEMPT TO COUNTER RECENT SIGNS IN LONDON AND DUBLIN OF A NEW EAGERNESS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

10. FOR THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER THE REASON FOR THE TIMING OF THE IRA'S QUOTE MOST SPECTACULARLY BARBAROUS ACT OF TERRORISM UNQUOTE WAS THE PROXIMITY OF THE MEETING BETWEEN MRS THATCHER AND DR FITZGERALD WHEN THERE WILL BE QUOTE A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY FOR IRELAND AND BRITAIN TO GET TO THE HEART OF THE CONFLICT. UNQUOTE THE IRA PROVED AGAIN AT BRIGHTON QUOTE THAT THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN UNITING IRELAND. THEY ARE DEVOTED TO A TYRANNY OF TERROR, FOR ITS OWN SAKE AND WITH THE MAD HOPE OF IMPOSING IT THROUGHOUT AN ISLAND LARGELY POPULATED BY PEACEFUL PEOPLE OF EXTRA-ORDINARY DECENCY. IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF MRS THATCHER WERE TO PLAY INTO THE IRA'S HANDS BY LETTING THE CAMPAIGN OF TERROR DEFLECT THE COURSE OF POSITIVE COURAGEOUS NEGOTIATIONS. UNQUOTE

11. THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE'S EDITORIAL WAS HEADED QUOTE LATEST COWARDLY IRA MASSACRE, UNQUOTE AND SPOKE OF MRS THATCHER EMERGING FROM THE BOMBING QUOTE UNSCATHED, UNSHAKEN AND IN CONTROL AS USUAL. UNQUOTE IT DESCRIBED THE BOMBING AS A COWARDLY, SHAMEFUL FORM OF PROTEST WHICH DECENT PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD HAD COME TO EXPECT OF THE IRA. IT SAID THE ORGANISATION HAD QUOTE COVERED ITSELF IN INNOCENT BLOOD AND HAS DEALT ANOTHER BLOW TO HOPES OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND QUESTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. UNQUOTE

12. IN LOS ANGELES THE HERALD EXAMINER TALKED OF THUGS IN THE GUISE OF CHEERY LITTLE LEPRECHAUNS WHO PERPETRATE SUCH SLAUGHTER IN THE NAME OF POLITICS. IT DOUBTED IF AN EVEN GREATER DEATH TOLL WOULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN IRELAND. IT SUGGESTED THAT THAT WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH SERIOUS NEGOTIATION AND COMPROMISES, BUT THE IRA IN COMMON WITH OTHER TERRORISTS ELSEWHERE WANT NO PART OF CIVILISED SOLUTIONS - QUOTE THESE WANTON BARBARIANS HAVE A TALENT ONLY FOR MURDER, WHICH WILL NEVER RESCUE THE DOWN TRODDEN THEY PRESUME TO REPRESENT. UNQUOTE

WRIGHT