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FM DUBLIN
TO DESKBY 311515Z FCO
TELNO 046
INFO DESKBY 311515Z NIO(L), NIO(B)
OF 311425Z JANUARY 94
INFO IMMEDIATE BIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON

Red. N. October

MY TELNO 36: NORTHERN IRELAND

SUMMARY

1. TAOISEACH REPLIES TO ADAMS LETTER AND SAYS PUBLICLY THAT HE IS PREPARED TO CLARIFY SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, BUT NOT (NOT) TO RENEGOTIATE. GENERALLY POSITIVE PRESS REACTIONS TO ISSUE OF US VISA TO ADAMS.

DETAIL

2. ANSWERING QUESTIONS AT A FIANNA FAIL MEETING ON 30 JANUARY, THE TAOISEACH SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS PREPARED TO CLARIFY (UNSPECIFIED) ASPECTS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, THERE WOULD BE NO RENEGOTIATION OF IT NOR ANY ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS. HOWEVER, HE WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH ADAMS AGAIN IF THERE WERE 'GENUINE QUESTIONS' TO BE ANSWERED. THE DECLARATION COULD BE 'CLARIFIED OR EXPLAINED' AUTHORITATIVELY BY EITHER THE IRISH OR BRITISH GOVERNMENTS. 'FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE CLARIFICATION' HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN IN HIS OWN SPEECHES AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY. NONE OF HIS STATEMENTS HAD BEEN REBUTTED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. SECRET BILATERAL CONSULTATION BETWEEN SINN FEIN AND HMG WOULD BE 'UNREALISTIC AND UNACCEPTABLE WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED'.

3. ASKED WHETHER THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO PERSUADE HMG TO CLARIFY THE DECLARATION, THE TAOISEACH SAID THIS WAS A MATTER FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT: 'WE DO OUR BUSINESS AND THEY DO THEIRS. THEY ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR VIEWS IN RELATION TO THE STAND WE HAVE TAKEN AGAINST RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE DOWNING STREET DECLARATION. WE WILL NOT RE-NEGOTIATE BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO CLARIFY. IF THERE ARE ANY GENUINE QUESTIONS TO BE CLARIFIED, I HAVE TAKEN THE VIEW THAT I WILL DO IT BUT IT IS A MATTER FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS TO WHAT THEY WILL DO.'

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE TAOISEACH HAS REPLIED TO

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ADAMS' RECENT LETTER TO HIM. WE HAVE ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE EXCHANGE (POINTING OUT THAT WE WENT SO FAR AS TO CONSULT THEM OVER ADAMS' LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER).

5. ADAMS US VISA ALSO RECEIVES WIDESPREAD COVERAGE IN TODAY'S PRESS, IN TERMS OF A SNUB FOR HMG AND A VICTORY FOR THE IRISH AMERICAN LOBBY. AN EDITORIAL IN THE IRISH TIMES CALLS IT A MODEST VICTORY FOR COMMONSENSE. THE DFA ISSUED A STATEMENT ON 30 JANUARY THAT 'THE TANAISTE FULLY SHARES THE HOPE OF PRESIDENT CLINTON THAT THIS DECISION WILL HELP TO ADVANCE THE PEACE PROCESS' IS ALSO REPORTED.

BLATHERWICK

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