

Confidential

CONFIDENTIAL

FM DUBLIN

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 48

OF 281700Z JANUARY 86

INFO PRIORITY NIO(B)

ms

ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT: MR HAUGHEY 'S VIEWS

1. I CALLED ON MR HAUGHEY AT MY REQUEST ON 27 JANUARY. HE WAS VERY CORDIAL.

2. I ASKED HIM FOR HIS CURRENT VIEW OF THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS WORKING WELL SO FAR. ALTHOUGH HE MAINTAINED HIS CONSTITUTIONAL OBJECTION BRIEFLY HE DID NOT DWELL ON IT. HE SAID THAT HE WAS GLAD THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL ARMS SEIZURE AT THE WEEKEND. THE TASK FORCE SEEMED TO BE EFFECTIVE. HE WAS IN NO DOUBT THAT THE RECENT ELECTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT THE AGREEMENT HAD SAVED THE SDLP AND REDUCED THE SUPPORT AMONG CATHOLICS FOR SINN FEIN. HE ACCEPTED THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE AIMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND THAT IN THIS RESEPECT IT HAD ALREADY PROVED ITS WORTH. HE MADE NO ATTEMPT, IN QUITE A LONG CONVERSATION TO SUSTAIN ANY KIND OF CRITICISM OF THE AGREEMENT, THOUGH HE WAS SPARING IN HIS PRAISE. HE HAD NO SUGGESTIONS ABOUT HOW TO COPE WITH UNIONIST OPPOSITION TO IT AND SEEMED VERY APPREHENSIVE OF PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY ACTIVITY. HE DID NOT SEE WHERE THE UNIONIST LEADERS WERE GOING NEXT.

3. I ASKED HIM ABOUT A POSSIBLE ANGLO-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY BODY. HE ASSURED ME SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WOULD NOT WITHOLD HIS SUPPORT FOR SOMETHING OF THIS KIND. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE IDEA HAD COME OUT OF HIS OWN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD VERY MUCH PREFER SUCH A BODY TO EMERGE FROM PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSIONS. HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE EXPLANATIONS WHICH MICHAEL MATES MP GAVE AT OXFORD OF THE INTENTION BEHIND THE EARLY DAY MOTION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. HE UNDERSTOOD BACK BENCH FINE GAEL MEMEBRS OF THE DAIL WERE GOING TO DISCUSS THESE SOON WITH DR FITZGERALD. HE DID NOT SUGGEST THAT THE LATTER HAD DISCUSSED THIS SO FAR WITH HIM. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT PROVIDED THE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHAT WAS TO BE DONE WERE CARRIED ON IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OIREACTHAS HE WOULD BE CONTENT TO PROMOTE THEM. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT WE DID NOT ENVISAGE A BODY WHICH WAS TOO CLOSELY CONNECTED TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE.

Confidential

14

Confidential

4. I SAID THAT I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT THAT MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT HMG FAVOURED A BODY WHICH WOULD RESEMBLE THE NATO AND WEU ASSEMBLIES. IT WOULD NOT HAVE LEGISLATIVE POWERS. IT WOULD NOT BE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE WORK OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE. IT WOULD NOT HAVE THE POWER TO SEND FOR PERSONS AND PAPERS. IT WOULD DISCUSS ANGLO-IRISH RELATIIONS IN GENERAL AND I DID NOT THINK TI WOULD BE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT ON THIS BASIS IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE TO HIM.

5. I WILL REPORT THE REST OF OUR DISCUSSION WHICH WAS LARGELY ON DOMESTIC POLITICS TO THE DEPARTMENT BY BAG.

GOODISON

NORTHERN IRELAND
LIMITED
RID
NAD
INFO DEPT.
WED
MAED
NEWS DEPT.
PUSD
SCD
RESEARCH DEPT.
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
SIR W HARDING
MR GOODALL
MR BARRINGTON
MR O'NEILL
MR RATFORD
MR D C THOMAS
MR LONG
MR HOUSTON
BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN IRELAND

-2-
Confidential