GRS 220

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FM DUBLIN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 89

OF 131725Z FEBRUARY 86

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO (BELFAST)



ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION:

NORTHERN IRELAND.

TELECON BARRIE/MILLS: ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT, 19 FEBRUARY: IRISH OBJECTIVES

1. DR FITZGERALD'S MAIN OBJECTIVE WHEN HE SEES THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE TO REAFFIRM HIS FULL COMMITMENT TO THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT, TO OBTAIN ASSURANCES FROM HER THAT HMG REMAINS SIMILARLY COMMITTED, AND TO DISCUSS HOW BEST TO MOVE FORWARD. IN THIS CONTEXT HE WILL WISH TO EXPLORE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER HOW TO INVOLVE THE MORE MODERATE UNIONISTS. HE WILL BE CONTENT THAT WORK IN THE CONFERENCE SHOULD NOW PROCEED IN A MORE MEASURED MANNER, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO URGE REINFORCEMENT OF THE RUC PRESENCE AT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE UDR AND THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND ACTION ON LEGAL MATTERS. HE WILL ASSURE THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WILL SIGN THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM SOON. HE WILL NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON SECURITY COOPERATION, WHICH HE WILL SAY IS A MATTER PRIMARILY FOR THE POLICE CHIEFS. DR FITZGERALD MAY ALSO WISH TO DISCUSS IN BROAD OUTLINE NEXT STEPS ON THE FUND (HE WILL WANT ACTION WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS AND PROBABLY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION) AND ON THE ANGLO-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY BODY. HE WILL BE ANXIOUS TO EXPLORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON HOW TO RECONCILE THE UNIONISTS TO THE AGREEMENT WITHOUT COMMITTING HIMSELF TO FURTHER PRESSURE ON THE SDLP EITHER ON SUPPORT OF THE SEGURITY FORCES OR ON STEPS TOWARDS DEVOLUTION. BUT, ABOVE ALL, HE WILL WANT THE MEETING TO BE AN EXPRESSION OF THE NEW SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ENSHRINED IN THE AGREEMENT.

2. FCO PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO BELL, NIO (L).

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