

CONFIDENTIAL

Reference .....

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LOVE 020/404/2

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 75		
03 JUN 1985		
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	JSL	

Mr Morris  
to p.s.

RL  
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H of C  
DA  
Miss Mills  
Mr Holt

cc: G E Clark Esq, RID, FCO

DINNER WITH THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE IRISH ARMED FORCES

1. My wife and I dined alone with General and Mrs O'Sullivan on 29 May. Much of the conversation was about Northern Ireland. The General's views on this topic are very different from the politicians'; they are very much coloured by his three tours in Cyprus, of which the last was in 1974-76.
2. He is in favour of partition, whether here or in Cyprus, though in Ireland he would not be opposed to repartition. Like Mr Enoch Powell, he considers that majorities have the right to govern how they like and minorities have a duty to make the best of it and knuckle under.
3. He described my discreet account of the aims of the Anglo-Irish talks as the kind of thing he had heard from Michael Lillis. (This did not appear to be a term of praise.) He is doubtful whether they will do any good. He does not favour any programme for the Republic's getting mixed up in the affairs of the North. He shares the view of many here that the North is something better not thought about.
4. I do not of course wish to suggest that he would be unwilling to deploy his forces more closely in support of ours if so directed. The Army has no say here in political decisions. I have no doubt of his professionalism and his loyalty to the present government, to whom he owes his position. (He will be retiring next year.)

Ⓞ

Alan Goodison

30 May 1985

Mr Baulie

GC

They wd accuse  
Dr F of betraying  
them but perhaps  
they wd then learn  
to live with the status quo.

What wd be the effect on  
the Northern nationalists if  
the Republic's gov<sup>t</sup> decided  
after a break down of the  
dialogue to follow Gen O'S  
advice?

RL  
4/6

Alternatively CONFIDENTIAL SF might take them  
over! DIB/46