

DESKBY 17 1730Z 19

ADVANCE COPIES
NORTHERN IRELAND

Ps 13 No 10. D.O.S. 25

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/PUS
MR GOODALL
HD/RID
DEP HD/PUSD (2)
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/INFO DEPT

MR STARK, CABINET OFFICE
MR BELL, NIO(L)
BY HSM

BY HSM PS/S of S NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

20.1.86

RESIDENT CLERK

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

ZCZC
DLLMAN 1479
CONFIDENTIAL
DD 171730Z FCOLN
OO NIORO
FM DUBLI TO FCOLN
171620Z OCT
GRS 300

mt

CONFIDENTIAL
FM DUBLIN
TO DESKBY 171730Z FCO
TELNO 530
OF 171620Z OCTOBER 86
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(S)

IRISH RATIFICATION OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM

SUMMARY

1. THE IRISH CABINET HAVE DEFERRED UNTIL 21 OCTOBER CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

DETAIL

2. I CALLED ON O TUATHAIL ON 17 OCTOBER. HE SHOWED ME THE THIRD DRAFT OF A LETTER FROM DR FITZGERALD TO MRS THATCHER IN REPLY TO HER LETTER OF 3 OCTOBER. THIS DRAFT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE IRISH CABINET ON 16 OCTOBER. IT BEGAN WITH AN ASSURANCE OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO PUT BEFORE THE DAIL A BILL FOR THE RATIFICATION OF IRISH ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM. THE REMAINDER OF THE DRAFT AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY FORECAST WAS ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH THEY FACED IN PURSUING THIS INTENTION WITHOUT A COMMITMENT BY NMG TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THREE JUDGE COURTS. IT STRESSED THE PROBLEMS THEY FACED IN THE DAIL. IT MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THE MEASURES SET OUT IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CARRY A MAJORITY OF THE DAIL. IT CONCLUDED WITH A SENTENCE TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY BELIEVED IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD AGREE ON MEASURES WHICH WOULD GIVE SUBSTANTIAL EXPRESSION TO THE LAW OF

MINISTER'S LETTER WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CARRY A MAJORITY OF THE DAIL. IT CONCLUDED WITH A SENTENCE TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY BELIEVED IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD AGREE ON MEASURES WHICH WOULD GIVE SUBSTANTIAL EXPRESSION TO THE AIM OF INCREASING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

3. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE CABINET, WHOSE TIME WAS MONOPOLIZED BY VERY CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (SEE MIPT) DECIDED TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT UNTIL 21 OCTOBER.

4. FCB PLEASE ADVANCE IMMEDIATE TO PS/SOFS NIO(L) AND TO BELL NIO(L).

5. GRATEFUL IF NIO(E) WOULD MAKE COPY AVAILABLE TO ME ON 20 OCTOBER.

GOODISON

YYYY

DLLNAN 1478

NNNN