

RESTRICTED

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FM DUBLIN

TO DESKBY 181400Z FCO

TELNO 787

OF 181255Z NOVEMBER 85

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, NIO (BELFAST) AND BIS NEW YORK
 INFO PRIORITY ATHENS, BONN, COPENHAGEN, UKREP BRUSSELS, BRUSSELS,
 THE HAGUE, PARIS, ROME AND LUXEMBOURG.

MOOD IN DUBLIN AFTER THE SUMMIT

SUMMARY

1. SOBER SATISFACTION IN DUBLIN THAT DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL
 AND MEDIA REACTION TO ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT HAS SO FAR GONE AS
 WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED. NO DISPOSITION TO CROW OVER THE UNIONISTS

DETAIL

2. WE HAVE REPORTED (MY TELNOS 783, 784 AND 786) THE IMMEDIATE
 MEDIA REACTION TO THE SIGNATURE OF THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT.
 THE MOOD IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES IS ONE OF SUBDUED SATISFACTION.
 THERE IS NO SENSE OF EUPHORIA NOR ANY DESIRE TO CRACK OPEN MAGNUMS
 OF CHAMPAGNE. RATHER THERE IS A FEELING THAT AFTER MANY MONTHS
 OF DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS THE STAGE IS AT LAST SET: THE PLAY
 NOW BEGINS.

3. OFFICIALS WERE ANXIOUS ABOUT THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE
 GIVEN BY THE TAOISEACH AND THE PRIME MINISTER. THERE WAS A SENSE
 OF RELIEF THAT IT WENT WELL. THERE WAS NO ADVERSE REACTION TO
 THE PRIME MINISTER'S DESCRIPTION OF HERSELF AS A UNIONIST AND
 A LOYALIST. THE PRESS CONFERENCE CAME OVER AS A SUCCESSFUL,
 EVEN-HANDED DOUBLE ACT. THE TAOISEACH WAS SEEN TO HAVE THE LAST
 WORD AND USED IT TO UNDERLINE HIS CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO IRISH
 UNITY AND TO REITERATE HIS PLEA THAT THE UNIONISTS SHOULD NOT
 PREJUDGE THE AGREEMENT, BUT JUDGE IT FOR WHAT IT IS.

4. MR HAUGHEY'S FIRST REACTION CAME ON THE LOCAL MEDIA DURING
 THE AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER. THERE WAS DISAPPOINTMENT
 AT HIS USE OF THE PHRASE 'THIS IS A SAD DAY FOR IRISH
 NATIONALISM'. BUT THERE WAS SATISFACTION LATER IN THE DAY
 WHEN, AS A RESULT OF FAST FOOTWORK BY DFA SECRETARY DONLON, THE
 TAOISEACH WAS BRIEFED TO REMIND MR HAUGHEY ON TELEVISION THAT
 EVENING OF THE AGREEMENT'S REFLECTION OF THE WORDS WHICH
 HE HIMSELF HAD USED IN HIS JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH MRS THATCHER IN

MAY

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MAY 1980, WHEN HE AGREED THAT THERE COULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF NORTHERN IRELAND WITHOUT MAJORITY CONSENT. ON A SPECIAL EDITION OF 'TODAY TONIGHT', THE IRISH TELEVISION CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME, MR HAUGHEY WAS EXTREMELY DEFENSIVE AS HE TRIED TO EXPLAIN WHY HE PROPOSED TO OPPOSE AN AGREEMENT WHICH HAD THE SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN, SENATOR KENNEDY, TIP O'NEILL, EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, ALL THE MAIN BRITISH POLITICAL PARTIES, MR HUME AND MR MALLON. THERE IS A FEELING IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES THAT MR HAUGHEY MAY HAVE BOXED HIMSELF INTO A CORNER WITH ONLY SINN FEIN AND MR PAISLEY FOR COMPANY.

5. MR HAUGHEY HAS BEEN SILENT OVER THE WEEKEND, WHILE HIS DEPUTY, MR LENIHAN, HAD AN AWKWARD TIME ON LUNCHTIME TELEVISION YESTERDAY ATTEMPTING TO ASSERT THAT FIANNA FAIL SPOKE FOR IRISH NATIONALISM: SEAMUS MALLON PUT HIM FIRMLY IN HIS PLACE. AT THE SAME TIME, ON THE MAIN POLITICAL AFFAIRS RADIO PROGRAMME, THE TAOISEACH, AND MR NOONAN REPORTING FROM NEW YORK, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE HIGH LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT EXPRESSED FOR THE AGREEMENT AND IN PARTICULAR FOR THE GENEROUS COVERAGE, AND SUPPORTIVE EDITORIAL COVER, IN THE RESPONSIBLE US PRESS. THE TAOISEACH EXPRESSED HIMSELF GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY A MEETING WITH COALITION BACKBENCHERS WHO ARE DISPOSED TO GIVE HIM THEIR FULL BACKING. (THEY HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN FIERCELY CRITICAL OF HIM). MEANWHILE THE ONLY DISSIDENT VOICE IN THE SDLP WHICH RTE REPORTERS COULD LOCATE YESTERDAY WAS THAT OF PASCHAL O'HARE, WHO HINTED HE MAY SHORTLY RESIGN.

Y6. THE TAOISEACH HAS PLEADED FOR AN ORDERLY DEBATE IN THE DAIL TOMORROW, AND UNDERTAKEN NOT TO USE THE OCCASION TO SCORE POINTS OFF THE OPPOSITION. I VERY MUCH DOUBT WHETHER FIANNA FAIL WILL RESPOND IN KIND.

7. NEVERTHELESS, TO SUM UP, REACTION INTERNATIONALLY, IN THE US, IN THE SDLP AND DOMESTICALLY (MR HAUGHEY EXCEPTED) HAS BEEN SO FAR AS GOOD AS THE TAOISEACH COULD HAVE HOPED FOR. THERE IS NO DISPOSITION TO GLOAT OVER THE DISCOMFITURE OF THE UNIONISTS.

18. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO THE PRIVATE SECRETARY, TO NUMBER 10 AND TO BELL NIO(L).

GOODISON

NORTHERN IRELAND PS/MR EGGAR
LIMITED PS/PUS
RID MR DEREK THOMAS
NAD SIR W HARDING
INFO D MR GOODALL
WED MR BARRINGTON
MAED MR O'NEILL
NEWS D MR SAMUEL
PUSD MR D C THOMAS
SCD MR LONG
RES D BUCKINGHAM PALACE
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG

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