

*Ireland*

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NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES ~~20~~

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MR WOODFIELD )  
MR MARSHALL ) N I O  
MR ANGEL )  
MR HARRINGTON )

SIR R ARMSTRONG CABINET OFFICE  
D I O CABINET OFFICE

PS/No.10 DOWNING STREET (2)

**IMMEDIATE**  
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GRS 520

UNCLASSIFIED

FM DUBLIN 271255Z JULY 1982

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 221 OF 28 JULY

AND TO INFO IMMEDIATE N I O (BELFAST)

YOUR TELNO 37: DR KENNEDY'S MEETING WITH MR HURD.

1. THE MEETING BETWEEN THE IRISH AMBASSADOR, AND MR HURD ON 26 JULY IS FRONT PAGE NEWS IN TODAY'S DUBLIN DAILIES. THE HEADLINES ARE :

- " BRITAIN SEES NO NEED TO CONSULT DUBLIN ON NORTH" (IRISH TIMES)
- " COLLINS GETS A BLUNT REPLY" (IRISH INDEPENDENT)
- " BRITISH HANDS-OFF ON NORTH" (IRISH PRESS).

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*Read in file.*

" BRITISH HANDS-OFF ON NORTH" (IRISH PRESS).

## 2. THE IRISH TIMES REPORTS

" THIS DIPLOMATIC REBUFF SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, ALREADY BADLY HIT BY THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE, MAY EVEN BE DETERIORATING FURTHER. DIFFICULTIES EXIST AT PRIME MINISTERIAL LEVEL, AT FOREIGN OFFICE LEVEL AND ALSO IN THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE. ALL THESE DEPARTMENTS, WITH SLIGHTLY DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES, ARE NOW ON BAD TERMS WITH THE REPUBLIC AND NO SERIOUS EFFORTS APPEAR TO BE ENVISAGED BY EITHER SIDE TO IMPROVE MATTERS"

THE IRISH TIMES ALSO QUOTES A D F A "STATEMENT" (IN FACT JUST BRIEFING) WHICH WHILE MAKING THE IRISH POINTS PLAYS DOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

## 3. THE IRISH INDEPENDENT SAYS:

" THE BRITISH RESPONSE WAS BEING REGARDED LAST NIGHT AS MUTED. THE FOREIGN OFFICE WENT NO FURTHER THAN TO PUT ON RECORD AGAIN THE TRADITIONAL BRITISH VIEW THAT IT IS FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ALONE TO DECIDE ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE FACT THAT IT TOOK SO LONG FOR BRITAIN TO REACT HAS BEEN TAKEN IN DUBLIN AS AN INDICATION THAT MRS THATCHER'S GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT ANY FURTHER DETERIORATION IN ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS".

## 4. THE IRISH PRESS REPORTS FEELING IN DUBLIN THAT :

" THE MEETING CALLED AT THE REQUEST OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN NO WAY DETRACTED FROM A GENERAL DESIRE OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO GET RELATIONS BETWEEN IRELAND AND BRITAIN BACK ON A GOOD FOOTING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE MEETING IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE BEEN LOW KEY AND AMICABLE AND TO HAVE INDICATED AGAIN THE ANXIETY ON BOTH SIDES TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH COULD HOLD UP MOVES TO GET RELATIONS ON AN EVEN KEEL AGAIN".

THE PRESS ALSO SPECULATES THAT THE MEETING HAS THE RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM CONSERVATIVE BACKBENCHERS AND NORTHERN UNIONISTS.

## 5. EDITORIAL COMMENT APPEARS IN THE IRISH TIMES AND IRISH PRESS. THE TIMES STATES:

... " NOT ONLY DOES DUBLIN HAVE A RIGHT TO BE CONSULTED ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND, IT IS NOTHING LESS THAN FOLLY FROM BRITAIN'S OWN VIEWPOINT FOR A BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO FAIL TO CONSULT DUBLIN

NORTHERN IRELAND, IT IS NOTHING LESS THAN FOLLY FROM BRITAIN'S OWN VIEWPOINT, FOR A BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO FAIL TO CONSULT DUBLIN. ANY EVENTUAL NORTHERN SETTLEMENT HAS TO BE WORKED OUT IN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTHERN COMMUNITIES, THERE IS NO OTHER WAY."

THE IRISH PRESS PICKS UP THE SECURITY COOPERATION THEME FROM EARLIER EDITORIALS (MY TELNO 198 PARA 2) :

... " WE HAVE FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEEN CONSIGNED TO THE ROLE OF A VERY JUNIOR PARTNER INDEED IN THE NORTH-SOUTH, DUBLIN-LONDON DIALOGUE WHEREAS IN FACT THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND IS A MAJOR FIGURE IN THE DRAMA - AND NOT MERELY IN A SECURITY ROLE. HOWEVER, IF BRITAIN WANTS TO CAST IN THIS ROLE ONLY, THE TWO-EDGED NATURE OF THIS SWORD CAN VERY EASILY BE MADE APPARENT IN ANY FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS ON CROSS BORDER SECURITY ... "

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