

IMMEDIATE

Inland

NORTHERN IRELAND:

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~~SIR J BUZZARD~~
MR GOODISION
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~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

PS/S of S, Rm66 A/2, GOGGS)
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)

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM DUBLIN 301040Z JULY 1982

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 224 OF 30 JULY

AND TO IMMEDIATE N I O (BELFAST)

FROM TATHAM
M I P T

1. THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT AND PRESUMABLY THE DECISION TO SUMMON THE AMBASSADOR EMERGED FROM AN IRISH GOVERNMENT MEETING YESTERDAY AT WHICH DR EAMONN KENNEDY WAS PRESENT.
2. I BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT IS PRIMARILY INTENDED TO DAMAGE DR FITZGERALD AND TO PORTRAY THE TAOISEACH ONCE AGAIN AS THE DEFENDER OF " THE NATIONALIST COMMUNITY IN IRELAND" FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS. IT WILL BE BEST IF WE CAN AVOID COMMENTING ON THE STATEMENT, JUST AS THERE IS NO REASON TO HURRY WITH A REPLY TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH MR COLLINS DELIVERED

~~FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, IT WILL BE BEST IF WE CAN~~
~~AVOID COMMENTING ON THE STATEMENT, JUST AS THERE IS NO REASON TO~~
~~HURRY WITH A REPLY TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH MR COLLINS DELIVERED~~
TO THE AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT. OUR POSITION HAS BEEN MADE QUITE
CLEAR BY MR HURD ON 26 JULY AND BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE
HOUSE YESTERDAY. ANY FURTHER RIPOSTES WILL GET HEADLINE TREATMENT
HERE, PROVOKE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT INTO LENGTHY REPLIES AND DO
NOTHING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS OR ENHANCE THE CHANCES OF
THE S D L P PARTICIPATING IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

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IMMEDIATE

NORTHERN IRELAND:

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SIR R ARMSTRONG CABINET OFFICE
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UNCLASSIFIED

FM DUBLIN 300955Z JULY 1982

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 223 OF 30 JULY

AND TO IMMEDIATE N I O (BELFAST)

MY TELNO 222: ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS

1. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT LAST NIGHT RELEASED A STATEMENT ON ANGLO-IRISH AFFAIRS WHICH, WHILE MAKING THE SAME POINTS AS MR COLLINS MADE TO ME, IS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO A SCATHING ATTACK ON DR FITZGERALD AND HIS STATEMENT OF 27 JULY (COPIES SENT TO R I D AND N I O).

2. THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT BEGINS BY REGRETTING THAT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO PAINT AS GLOOMY A PICTURE AS POSSIBLE OF THE STATE OF ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS. IT QUOTES PARAGRAPH FOUR OF THE COMMUNIQUE OF DECEMBER 1980, ADDING THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR RECENT BRITISH CLAIMS THAT THERE WAS NO COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF H M G TO CONSULT WITH DUBLIN ON MATTERS AFFECTING NORTHERN IRELAND. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT REGRET THAT BRITAIN HAS TURNED AWAY FROM A COURSE WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY CONTAINED THE POSSIBILITY FOR A LONG TERM SOLUTION TO THE SITUATION IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THIS ISLAND AND HAS

~~TO THE SITUATION IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THIS ISLAND AND HAS~~
TAKEN AN INITIATIVE ALMOST CERTAIN TO FAIL''.

3. THE MEAT OF THE STATEMENT IS AN ATTACK ON DR FITZGERALD, WHO IS ACCUSED OF ''TAKING SIDES WITH BRITAIN'' AND OF BLAMING ANY DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS ON THE IRISH GOVERNMENT. HE IS ACCUSED OF BEING READY TO SUPPORT THE PRIOR INITIATIVE AND HIS INTENTION TO PUT DOWN A MOTION IN THE DAIL TO ESTABLISH A ''WATERED DOWN'' ANGLO-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY TIER IS ALLEGED TO BE ''AT THE SUGGESTION OF BRITISH MINISTERS''. IN THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, THE PARLIAMENTARY TIER SHOULD BE SET UP BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND, IF IT IS NOT, IT WOULD BE ''OF LITTLE MORE VALUE THAN A SOCIAL CLUB FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS''.

4. THE STATEMENT ADDS: '' QUESTIONS ALSO NEED TO BE ASKED ABOUT THE RECENT ACTIVITIES OF DR FITZGERALD IN LONDON WHERE HE MET MR PRIOR WITHOUT REVEALING TO THE GOVERNMENT OR PUBLIC WHAT WAS SAID''. IF DR FITZGERALD SPOKE TO MR PRIOR ON THE LINES OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE DUKE OF NORFOLK (THE DUKE IS QUOTED - HOUSE OF LORDS, 8 JULY - AS SAYING THAT DR FITZGERALD SEES THIS BILL ''AS BEING A WONDERFUL STEP FORWARD'') THEN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OPPOSITION LEADER MUST BECOME A CAUSE OF CONCERN ''NOT MERELY TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT BUT TO THE ENTIRE NATIONALIST COMMUNITY IN IRELAND''.

5. DR FITZGERALD HAS ISSUED A BRISK REPLY, CALLING THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT BLATANT ATTEMPT TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THEIR OWN MISHANDLING OF ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS. THE CHARGE THAT HE ACTED AT THE SUGGESTION OF BRITISH MINISTERS IS DESCRIBED AS ''FALSE AND MALICIOUS''. HE MENTIONS THAT HE URGED MR PRIOR TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR SENATOR MALLON TO TAKE PART IN THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY AND REGRETS THAT THE TAOISEACH SHOULD ''SEEK TO COVER HIS OWN INEPTITUDE IN HANDLING IRISH-BRITISH RELATIONS BY THE USE OF INNUENDOES AND UNTRUTHS OF A KIND HAPPILY RARE IN IRISH POLITICS''.

6. THE FULL TEXT OF BOTH STATEMENTS FOLLOWS BY BAG TO R I D AND N I O LONDON AND BELFAST.

7. SEE M I F T.

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