

Prime Minister

LM
27/8

GRS 180
UNCLASSIFIED
FM DUBLIN 261445Z AUG 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 244 OF 26 AUGUST 1982
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO (B)

PS TO PM, NO 10 DOWNING STREET,

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY: SDLP

1. THE GOVERNMENT PRESS SECRETARY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT THIS MORNING FOLLOWING THE SDLP'S DECISION TO CONTEST THE ELECTION BUT BOYCOTT THE ASSEMBLY:

BEGINS

THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE SDLP IN DUNGANNON LAST NIGHT REGARDING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN FORTHCOMING NORTHERN ELECTIONS IS ENTIRELY A MATTER FOR THE SDLP. THE GOVERNMENT RESPECT THE DECISION TAKEN. IT IS FURTHER PROOF, IF SUCH WERE NEEDED, THAT THE PROPOSED SCHEME IS BOTH UNACCEPTABLE AND UNWORKABLE.

ENDS

2. A STATEMENT 'ON BEHALF OF FINE GAEL' WAS ALSO ISSUED:

BEGINS

FINE GAEL WELCOMES THE DECISION OF THE SDLP TO STAND FOR THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ASSEMBLY AFTER THE ELECTIONS IS A MATTER FOR THE PARTY. HOWEVER THE DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION WILL ENSURE THE PROVISION OF AN ADEQUATE AND REPRESENTATIVE PARLIAMENTARY BASE FROM WHICH TO DRAW PART OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARLIAMENTARY TIER OF THE ANGLO-IRISH COUNCIL.

FINE GAEL WILL SEEK DISCUSSIONS IN THE AUTUMN WITH THE OTHER PARTIES IN THE OIREACHTAS ON THE STRUCTURE AND POSSIBLE FUNCTIONS OF THIS TIER OF THE ANGLO-IRISH COUNCIL TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE PARLIAMENTS OF IRELAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

ENDS.

FIEG

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