

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code: 2005/151/680

Title: Copy telex to J McColgan, Anglo-Irish Section, Department of Foreign Affairs from D O'Sullivan, Irish Ambassador to the United Kingdom transmitting the text of a statement to be issued by the British Government which was received from Douglas Janes of the Northern Ireland Office on the maintenance of security in Northern Ireland and commenting on the nature of violence in Northern Ireland

Creation Date(s): 5 September 1975

Level of description: Item

Extent and medium: 3 pages

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Access Conditions: Open

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SERIAL NO 252

SECRET CODE
IMMEDIATE
TO HQ FROM LONDON
FOR MCCOLGAN FROM AMBASSADOR

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT GIVEN TO ME BY DOUGLAS JANES. HE DOUBTS IF THERE WILL BE ANY CHANGES OF SIGNIFICANCE IN IT. HE ASKED THAT THE CONTENTS BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL IN ADVANCE OF DELIVERY

QUOTE

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE SERIOUS AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS THAT FACE US ALL IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

I AM RESPONSIBLE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR SECURITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. OUR SECURITY PROBLEMS MUST AND WILL BE DEALT WITH. THE RULE OF LAW MUST AND WILL BE SUSTAINED.

AS WE KNOW IN NORTHERN IRELAND, VIOLENCE IS NOT NEW. SINCE 1969 MORE THAN 1,300 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED AND OVER 13,000 INJURED.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE IN THE NATURE OF THE VIOLENCE. THERE'S BEEN LESS BOMBING, AND THE KILLING HAS BEEN LARGELY SECTARIAN, OR GROUPS FEUDING BETWEEN THEMSELVES.

TO THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PEOPLE THOSE KILLINGS ARE TOTALLY ADHORRENT. THE KILLERS AND MAIMERS ARE A SMALL MINORITY. TO THEM I SAY, YOU WILL NOT GAIN ANYTHING. YOU WILL PAY THE PENALTY. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER TO OTHER PEOPLE.

BOTH PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS HAVE SUFFERED. ONE KILLING HAS FOLLOWED ANOTHER. THESE SECTARIAN MURDERS ARE CARRIED OUT BY A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF WEAPONS. IN THIS YEAR THERE IS LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NUMBER KILLED BY ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER,

TO TRACK THESE CRIMINALS DOWN, AND TO BRING THEM TO JUSTICE BEFORE THE COURTS, REQUIRES PATIENT DETECTIVE WORK AND SIFTING OF EVIDENCE. THEY ARE BEING BROUGHT TO JUSTICE BY THE POLICE

AND THE ARMY. ALREADY THIS YEAR MORE THAN 700 PEOPLE FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND FROM ALL OVER NORTHERN IRELAND, HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

WHAT I'M SURE IS RIGHT IS THAT THEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURTS:



E. Sigd
[Signature]

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IT IS ALSO RIGHT THAT THEY SHOULD BE SENTENCED BY THE COURTS AND BRINGED INTO PRISON. DETENTION IS AN EXECUTIVE ACT. IT IS FAR BETTER THAT THE MORE LASTING AND DURABLE PROCESSES OF THE LAW SHOULD APPLY. THESE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS WHY I BELIEVE THAT DETENTION IS NOT THE RIGHT ANSWER TO CRIMES OF VIOLENCE OF THIS KIND. BUT IF THE SECURITY SITUATION REQUIRES IT, THEN I HAVE THE NECESSARY POWERS.

TO DEAL WITH CRIME WE HAVE HERE 4,600 MEMBERS OF THE RUC AND ALMOST 5,000 RESERVISTS TOGETHER WITH OVER 14,000 REGULAR SOLDIERS AND 7,700 UDR TO HELP. THEY HAVE A LARGE AREA TO COVER. AT THE MOMENT THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE SECURITY FORCES TO SEARCH OUT THE KILLERS AND TO OPERATE IN THE RURAL AND BORDER AREAS, NOT LEAST WHERE ONE OR OTHER OF THE COMMUNITIES IS ISOLATED.

ACCORDINGLY ADDITIONAL SOLDIERS ARE ARRIVING IN NORTHERN IRELAND TODAY AND MORE ARE ON THEIR WAY. TO HELP THEM IN THEIR TASK A PROGRAMME OF CLOSING BORDER CROSSINGS IN CERTAIN AREAS HAS STARTED AND WILL CONTINUE.

THE SECURITY FORCES WILL MAINTAIN ORDER. THEY HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEY ARE HERE TO PROTECT ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND TO BRING ALL CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE. BUT HOWEVER BIG THE SECURITY FORCES, THEY CANNOT DO IT ALONE THEY NEED YOUR HELP. THEY NEED ACCURATE INFORMATION. GIVE IT TO THEM. IT WILL MAKE THEIR TASK EASIER AND SAVE LIVES. GIVE THE SECURITY FORCES THE HELP THEY NEED, AND THEY WILL GIVE YOU THE SECURITY YOU NEED.

LET ME MAKE A NUMBER OF THINGS QUITE CLEAR.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ABDICATE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES HERE. THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY TO US "GET OUT AND LET THEM GET ON WITH IT".

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YOU KNOW, AD TH GOVERNMENT KNOWS, THAT THIS WOULD SIMPLY BE A SENTENCE OF DEATH FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE.

THERE HAS BEEN NO DEAL WITH ANYBODY TO GRANT IMMUNITY FROM CRIMINAL CHARGES. ANYONE AGAINST WHOM THERE ARE CRIMINAL CHARGES WILL BE DEALT WITH AND BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURTS. THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE LAW, AND, UNLIKE DETENTION, IS NOT SOMETHING I CONTROL.

THERE HAS BEEN NO SELL OUT OR DEAL TO SETTLE YOUR POLITICAL FUTURE.

PARLIAMENT SET UP THE CONVENTION. I BELIEVE A POLITICAL SOLUTION WILL EMERGE HERE. WHAT WE WANT TO SEE IS YOUR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES COME TO AN AGREED AND ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. THIS IS A MAJOR AND HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY. IT CAN AND MUST BE BORNE. I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASY NOR DID I LOOK FOR INSTANT SUCCESS. I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO FIND A WAY OF WORKING FOR NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH WILL SATISFY THE VAST MAJORITY IN BOTH COMMUNITIES. MOREOVER THERE IS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE WHO IS PREPARED TO WORK IN A LEGITIMATE AND DEMOCRATIC WAY.

THOSE WHO TALK OF WALK OUT, OF COMING TO THE END OF THE ROAD, AND OF DELIBERATELY ENDING THE CONVENTION, WOULD PUT BACK DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT FOR YEARS. I MUST MAKE IT PLAIN THAT THE CONSEQUENCES ARE INCALCULABLE.

I WILL DO ALL I CAN ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT. SUCCESS IS NOT A MATTER OF WORDS BUT OF ACTIONS BY US ALL. THE SECURITY FORCES NEED YOUR BULL-HEARTED SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION.

I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY

YOU ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY

TOGETHER WE CAN AND WILL SUCCEED. STOP THOSE WHO CLAIM TO KILL IN YOUR NAME. THEY ARE KILLING YOUR FUTURE.

DO'S 5/9/75 TIME 12.30

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