

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2010/53/915
Creation Date(s):	9 July 1980
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Mr. Murray
may I see
any papers re?
16-7-80

M. J. Dowling
16/7

16-7-80

FROM FINE GAEL PRESS AND INFORMATION SERVICES.
9/7/1980.

STATEMENT FROM DR. GARRET FITZGERALD, TD., LEADER OF FINE GAEL.

IRISH AMBASSADOR TO US

I WELCOME THE GOV.'S DECISION TO RECONSIDER THE INTENDED CHANGE OF POLICY REFLECTED IN THE PROPOSED REMOVAL OF AMBASSADOR DONLAN FROM HIS POSITION AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES.

IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THE PLANNED REMOVAL OF AMBASSADOR DONLAN WAS NOT AN NORMAL DIPLOMATIC SWITCH, BUT REPRESENTED A DECISION BY THE TAOISEACH, MR HAUGHEY, TO CHANGE FUNDAMENTALLY THE DIRECTION OF THE GOV'S NORTHERN IRELAND POLICIES IN A MANNER SERIOUSLY DAMAGING TO IRISH INTERESTS.

IT HAS BEEN THE UNCHANGING POLICY OF SUCCESSIVE IRISH GOVERNMENTS TO REPUDIATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IRISH NATIONAL CACUS AND NORAIID IN THE US AND INSTEAD TO SEEK THE SUPPORT OF LEADING CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER US POLITICAL FIGURES AND OF THE US ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL POLICY OF WORKING FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM AND FOR EVENTUAL IRISH UNITY BY CONSCENT, RATHER THAN BY VIOLENCE OR CONSTRAINT.

AIDED BY THE EFFORTS OF THE SDLP IN THE UNITED STATES THESE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES HAVE SECURED FOR IRELAND OVER THE YEARS THE SUPPORT OF POWERFUL AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS, SUCH AS SPEAKER 'TIP' O'NEILL, SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN AND GOVERNOR CAREY OF NEW YORK. THESE POLITICAL LEADERS, AT THE EXPENSE OF ELECTORAL SUPPORT FOR THEMSELVES FROM IRISH AMERICANS INFLUENCED BY IRA AND THE IRISH NATIONAL CACUS PROPAGANDA, HAVE UNREMITTINGLY SUPPORTED THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND IRISH UNITY BY CONSENT. THESE LEADERS ARE NOW REPORTED TO BE DEEPLY HURT BY THE PLANNED CHANGE OF POLICY BY AN IRISH GOV. TO ALIGN ITSELF WITH OTHER FORCES IN THE US AND PRIVATELY TO HAVE BEEN SCATHINGLY CRITICAL OF THE TAOISEACH'S PROPOSAL.

WE OWE TO THE EFFORTS OF THESE MEN THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION LAST YEAR TO THE BRITISH GOV. WHICH GREATLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE REVIVAL OF EFFORTS BY THAT GOV. TO SEEK ACTIVELY A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEMS AFTER YEARS OF BRITISH INACTION IN THESE MATTERS.

I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT, APPARENTLY, THIS US POLITICAL SUPPORT, OF A KIND NOT KNOWN SINCE 1921, IS NOT NOW TO BE RECKLESSLY THROWN ASIDE BY THE TAOISEACH'S PLAN, FOR PETTY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, TO CHANGE POLICY IN RELATION TO THE IRISH NATIONAL CACUS, AND ITS DISCREDITED POLITICAL EXPONENT, CONGRESSMAN MARIO BIAGGI.

IN SEEKING TO SAVE HIS DISCREDITED GOV. FORM THE THREAT TO ITS EXTREMIST SUPPORT POSED BY A POSSIBLE NEW PARTY LED BY DEPUTY NEIL BLANEY, 5THE TAOISEACH IS HE HAD PROCEEDED WITH THE PLAN TO SWITCH AMBASSADOR DONLAN WOULD HAVE IN A SINGLE ACT REJECTED THE MOST POWERFUL EXTERNAL POLITICAL FORCE THAT OUR NATIONAL POLICIES HAS EVER SECURED SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE STATE.