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F-A1 LDN

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cc. PSM

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A.I. Section
W. W. Coakley
BOX

ALS Lillis

TO HQ
FOR ASST SEC LILLIS

FROM LDN
FROM C MANAHAN LESLIE

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I SHOULD LIKE, WITH PERMISSION, MR SPEAKER, TO MAKE A BRIEF STATEMENT ON THE DISCUSSIONS THAT I HELD WITH THE TAOISEACH ON 7 NOVEMBER.

I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MY RT HON FRIENDS THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND.

DR FITZGERALD WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MR SPRING, THE TANAISTE, AND BY MR BARRY, THE IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER.

THIS WAS OUR FIRST MEETING FOR TWO YEARS, OTHER THAN IN THE MARGINS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

IT TOOK PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ANGLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL WHICH WE SET UP AT OUR MEETING ON 6 NOVEMBER 1981.

THE MEETING PROVIDED THE OCCASION FOR A USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND REFLECTED THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP WHICH NOW EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WE REVIEWED THE STATE OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL AT BOTH MINISTERIAL AND OFFICIAL LEVELS.

WE APPROVED A JOINT REPORT DESCRIBING THE CO-OPERATION WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE ANGLO-IRISH JOINT STUDIES IN NOVEMBER 1981. WE PARTICULARLY WELCOMED THE SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SUPPLY OF KINSALE GAS TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

THE REPORT AND THE REVIEW ANNEXED TO IT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SECTION ON SECURITY MATTERS, HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE LIBRARY OF THE HOUSE.

WE ALSO DISCUSSED OTHER ISSUES IN ANGLO IRISH RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND. WE REAFFIRMED OUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUING VIOLENCE AND OUR JOINT DETERMINATION TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO END IT.

DR FITZGERALD SPOKE OF THE WORK OF THE NEW IRELAND FORUM.

WE ALSO DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE LEBANON.

WE GAVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO COMMUNITY ISSUES IN THE LIGHT OF THE FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN ATHENS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER MEETINGS OF THE ANGLO-IRISH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL AT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

CML 9.11.83 TIME 1624

CC GERRY CORR, PBESS SECTION

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