

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



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TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR ASST SEC LILLIS FROM AMBASSADOR
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CODED MESSAGE	
IMMEDIATE URGENT	
CONFIDENTIAL	
DATE.....	5/10/83 TIME 1830
INITIALS.....	SB Bailey

BEFORE THIS MORNING'S JOINT CONGRESSIONAL SESSION TO HEAR PRESIDENT CAARSTENS OF THE FRG, I WAS APPROACHED BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, SIR OLIVER WRIGHT, WHO OPENED THE CONVERSATION WITH THE WORDS "WE HAVE TROUBLE". HE TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE INFORMED YESTERDAY OF THE MOYNIHAN RESOLUTION AND THAT IT WOULD POSE CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS FOR THEM. HE INTENDED TO SPEAK TO SENATOR MOYNIHAN ON THE SUBJECT.

OUR SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION CONCERNED NOT SO MUCH THE CONTENTS OF THE RESOLUTION AS THE BACKGROUND TO IT. I EXPLAINED THAT SENATOR MOYNIHAN HAD TAKEN A LOT OF FLACK AS A RESULT OF HIS COURAGEOUS STAND AGAINST THE RADICALS IN NEW YORK LAST SAINT PATRICK'S DAY. I HAD DISCUSSED THAT SITUATION ON TWO OCCASIONS WITH HIM SINCE THEN, AND HAD FOUND HIM EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE HIGHER PROFILE OF RADICAL ACTIVITY IN THE NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY AREA AND, AS HE PUT IT, "ITS EFFECTS FOR ALL OF US". I INTERPRETED THIS AS CONCERN FOR HIS OWN POLITICAL FUTURE AS A RESULT OF THE MANY THREATS AND ADVERSE STATEMENTS MADE BY RADICAL GROUPS IN THAT AREA IN THE MONTHS FOLLOWING THE PARADE. MOYNIHAN'S ACTION HAD BEEN VERY COURAGEOUS AND HAD HELPED ALL OF US WHO WERE INTERESTED IN CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES AS OPPOSED TO VIOLENCE. I WAS AWARE THAT IN NORTHERN IRELAND, WHICH I HAD VISITED THIS SUMMER, THE POLICY OF OUR GOVERNMENT ON THE PARADE SITUATION AND THE STATEMENTS OF MOYNIHAN, CAREY AND OTHER SUPPORTERS HAD BEEN VERY FAVOURABLY GREETED IN PRESBYTERIAN, CHURCH OF IRELAND AND OTHER CIRCLES.

ELAND AND OTHER
CIRCLES.

WRIGHT AGREED WITH THIS AND SAID THAT THE REACTION IN BRITAIN HAD BEEN EQUALLY FAVOURABLE, BUT HE ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT MOYNIHAN HOPED TO ACHIEVE BY INTRODUCING THIS RESOLUTION. I SAID I FELT HE WISHED TO TRY TO UNDO SOME OF THE POLITICAL DAMAGE HE HAD SUSTAINED AMONG PERSONS OF STRONG IRISH NATIONALIST FEELINGS IN HIS CONSTITUENCY. AS I UNDERSTOOD IT HE WAS TRANSFERRING TO THE FEDERAL LEVEL A MEASURE INITIATED BY ASSEMBLYMAN DEARIE OF NEW YORK WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN ENACTED AT STATE LEVEL. ALTHOUGH WE WERE OF COURSE NOT INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER AND I HAD NOT STUDIED THE WORDING OF THE RESOLUTIONS, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE WORDING CONTEMPLATED BY MOYNIHAN WAS RATHER MORE MODERATE THAN THAT OF THE DEARIE INITIATIVE. IF MOYNIHAN WERE TO OBSTAIN FROM SUCH AN INITIATIVE IN CONGRESS, IT WAS HIGHLY LIKELY ON THE BASIS OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE THAT CONGRESSMAN BIAGGI OR SOME OTHER REPRESENTATIVE PROMINENTLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE RADICAL PHILOSOPHY WOULD DO SO INSTEAD. IF THIS WERE TO OCCUR, THE WORDING OF THE MEASURE INTRODUCED WAS LIKELY TO BE MUCH MORE DISAGREEABLE FROM THE BRITISH POINT OF VIEW THAN THE WORDING OF THE MOYNIHAN RESOLUTION.

MY COLLEAGUE DID NOT CHALLENGE THIS AND WE PASSED ON TO OTHER MATTERS. HE TOLD ME THAT SECRETARY OF STATE PRIOR WILL PAY ONE OF HIS ROUTINE INFORMATION VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES AT THE END OF THIS MONTH AND WILL VISIT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, BOSTON, CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO. HE WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON 24TH AND 25TH OCTOBER. I MADE NO COMMENT ON THIS BEYOND REMARKING THAT THESE WERE THE CENTRES OF HIGHEST IRISH POPULATION, WHICH WRIGHT REMARKED WAS HARDLY SURPRISING. I REFERRED TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER'S RECENT VISIT AND SAID I HAD BEEN INTRIGUED BY A REPORT I HAD SEEN OF A QUESTION ASKED BY CRONIN OF THE IRISH TIMES AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON WHETHER THE SUBJECT OF NORTHERN IRELAND HAD COME UP IN THE PM'S DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT. WRIGHT REPLIED THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION IT HAD NOT. I MENTIONED THAT ACCORDING TO CRONIN'S REPORT THE PM SEEMED TO HAVE CHANGED HER MIND ON THAT FACT ON CONSULTING AN ADVISER WHO WAS PRESENT. WRIGHT OFFERED TO CHECK THE RECORD, BUT I SUGGESTED THIS WAS HARDLY NECESSARY, SINCE IF HE HAD SEEN A REFERENCE TO NORTHERN IRELAND ON HIS FIRST READING HE WOULD SURELY REMEMBER IT. HE AGREED, REMARKING THAT "THE MATTER IS NOT EXACTLY ON THE BACK BURNER".

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION, WRIGHT WENT UP TO MOYNIHAN AND THEY WENT OFF TOGETHER ENGAGED IN EARNEST CONVERSATION. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER MOYNIHAN, AS A RESULT OF THE PRESSURE WHICH IS UNDOUBTEDLY BEING APPLIED BY MY COLLEAGUE, WILL WITHDRAW OR SUBSTANTIALLY MODIFY HIS PROPOSAL. ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD NOT BE AN ALTOGETHER UNFAVOURABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, BEARING IN MIND OUR CURRENT OBJECTIVES ELSEWHERE (AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNFORTUNATE HAD MOYNIHAN INTRODUCED HIS RESOLUTION JUST BEFORE THE THATCHER VISIT, AS HE INTENDED TO DO), 38 73)8
I BELIEVE OUR OWN BEST POSTURE IN THIS

SITUATION IS THAT OF INTERESTED OBSERVER. I WOULD BE OPPOSED TO OUR BRINGING ANY PRESSURE ON MOYNIHAN TO WITHDRAW OR MODIFY HIS DRAFT, SINCE HIS ATTITUDE LAST MARCH WAS VERY SUPPORTIVE AND WE NOW OWE HIM SUPPORT IN OUR TURN IN HIS EFFORTS TO MAKE UP SOME OF THE POLITICAL GROUND HE HAS LOST. FOR THAT REASON, SHOULD WE BE ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE RESOLUTION IF AND WHEN IT APPEARS, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO DESCRIBE IT AS HELPFUL.

END

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