

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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Mr. Murray. W. H. H. 3/3/83 [2] below also [23081 not attached]  
To see, Mr. Copy of transcript  
- which we obtained from Dublin  
Office of the Commission and which  
is accurate as Mr. O'Leighaigh & I  
were present at the Press Conference -  
might be passed to O'FA: English

for file on  
U.S. the  
EEB.

Secretary to the Government  
W. Kirwan, Assistant Secretary

Resolution on Northern Ireland dropped by  
Political Affairs Committee of European Parliament.

W. Kirwan  
2.3.83

Please see

- (1) transcript of what transpired re Northern Ireland at President Thorn's Press Conference yesterday.
- (2) the text of the statement he had prepared in advance which was in the brief he mistakenly left behind him: you will note that he stuck closely to this at the Press Conference.
- (3) letter to "The Times" from lady Elles, leader of the British Conservatives in the European Parliament.

Strictly Confidential.

We need to discuss and consider what the Irish line should be in regard to the resolution adopted by the Political Affairs Committee. The next step will be for the matter to come before the Bureau of the Parliament.

The question arises as to the attitude to be taken by Fine Gael and Labour MEPs in advance of the Bureau meeting

- active lobbying or passive, positive, neutral or negative. From comments by the Taoiseach and reports of comments by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I infer the answer to the second part of the question is "positive" but the other aspects require consideration.

If the Bureau decides that the matter should go ahead, other decisions will be required - on co-operation with the rapporteur, on input to his report and, ultimately, on attitudes to the draft and final report and on voting in the Committee and in the plenary session of the Parliament.

The whole question is appropriate for discussion between the Taoiseach and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

W. Kirwan  
2 March 1983