

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



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CODED MESSAGE
IMMEDIATE URGENT
CONFIDENTIAL
DATE <u>22/5/85</u> TIME <u>1930</u>
INITIALS: <u>CB</u>

C155
MAY 23 1985

IMMEDIATE (WEDNESDAY MORNING)

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR B DAVENPORT FROM M BURKE

MMYYYYY

HUME'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON 22/24 MAY

WHILE HERE HUME HAD MEETINGS WITH THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE: SPEAKER, KENNEDY, DODD, FOLEY, AND ALSO MET WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS AT A RECEPTION ORGANISED BY DODD. IN ADDITION, HE CALLED ON PAT BUCHANAN, THE NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND BRIEFED 10 MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA. I ACCOMPANIED HUME ON THESE MEETINGS AT HIS REQUEST. MOST OF THE APPOINTMENTS HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY THE EMBASSY.

A SEPARATE PROGRAMME WAS ARRANGED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR A NEW IRELAND AND RELATED MAINLY TO SDLP FUND - -RASING. HUME HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH ATWOOD OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE AND PUT THE FINAL TOUCHES TO 5£3 049 23:5 2£8:£ 8 4309453 9, -5 -, 3-4)3'54 38

START THAT LINE AGAIN ALL FIGS HERE
UTE AND PUT THE FINAL TOUCHES
TO THE PROJECT WHICH I REPORTED ON AT AN EARLIER DATE. THE PROJECT IS TO ANNOUNCED BY HUME ON HIS RETURN TO N.I. HE ALSO HAD CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF LABOUR LEADERS AND IS HOPEFUL THAT SOME FUNDING MIGHT BE OBTAINED TO SET UP ADVICE CENTRES IN CONSTITUENCIES WHERE THE SDLP HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING WESTMINSTER SEATS IN FUTURE ELECTIONS.

IN HIS BRIEFING OF POLITICIANS ON CAPITOL HILL, HE TOOK THE FOLLOWING GENERAL LINE:

A) THE LOCAL ELECTIONS PRODUCED NO SUPRISES THE SDLP HELD ITS GROUND AND SINN FEIN SUPPORT WAS THE SAME AS IN PREVIOUS OUTINGS. SINN FEIN SUPPORT HAS IN HIS VIEW TOPPED OUT AT ITS CURRENT LEVEL. HE MENTIONED THAT SINN FEIN WAS NOW RECEIVING THE SAME LEVEL OF SUPPORT AS IT DID WHEN IT COMPETED IN ELECTIONS IN THE THIRTIES AND FIFTIES. HUME WAS ASKED BY A NUMBER OF CONTACTS FOR ABREAKDONO OF THE SINN FEIN VOTE. HE FELT THAT 6/7 PER CENT OF THEIR VOTE WAS A TRADITIONALLY REPUBLICAN ABSTENTIONIST VOTE. THE REST HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM THE IIP AND INDEPENDENT NATIONALISTS. HE MENTIONED THAT THE SDLP HAD BROKEN NEW GROUND BY WINNING SEATS IN BALLYMENA AND BANBRIDGE AND FELT THAT THE CENTRE (PORTION OF ALLIANCE VOTE) WAS COMING TO THE SDLP,

B) HUME SAID THAT POLITICS IN N.I. ARE IN A STATE OF LIMBO WHILE THE ANGLO-IRISH DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE. IF THERE HAD BEEN A CHANGE IN THE ELECTORAL SUPPORT OF THE PARTIES, IT MIGHT HAVE INFLUENCED THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTINUE WITHOUT ANY IMPACT FROM THE LOCAL ELECTION. HE STRESSED THE CENTRAL IMPORTANCE OF THE ANGLO-IRISH DISCUSSIONS AND SAID THAT A SUMMIT MEETING WOULD BE HELPFUL IN JUNE OR SEPTEMBER IF THEY ARE BROUGHT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION (INDICATED THAT SEPTEMBER WAS MORE LIKELY). IF NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THERE WOULD BE NO SUMMIT AND ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS WOULD BE THROWN INTO DISARRAY,

C) WHEN QUESTIONED ON THE STICKING POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, HUME SAID THAT IT REVOLVED AROUND THE ROLE WHICH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE IN OVERSEEING THE ADMINISTRATION OF N.I. IT HAD TO GIVE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT SOME FORM OF EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY IN N.I. CONSULTATION WOULD MEAN RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT POWER AND WOULD BE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. SOME FORM OF WORDS WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND IN THE AGREEMENT TO BRIDGE THIS GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES,

D) ON PROSPECTS FOR THE TALKS, HUME SHARED THE TAOISEACH'S ASSESSMENT OF THERE BEING A 50/50 CHANCE ALTHOUGH HE TENDED TO BE PESSIMISTIC,

E) WHEN ASKED ABOUT WHAT COULD BE DONE AT THIS END TO HELP, HE MADE TWO POINTS:

- CONTINUED EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO THE BRITISH WAS IMPORTANT AND HELPFUL (EXPRESSED THANKS FOR ACTION WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN),
- U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE COULD BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN STABILISING THE SITUATION AFTER AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. SPEAKER STRESSED THAT NEED FOR ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR SUCH A PROPOSAL IF THE MAJOR PACKAGE WAS TO BE PUT TOGETHER,

E) SPECIAL ENVOY PROPOSAL. THIS WAS DISCUSSED WITH MOYNIHAN IN PARTICULAR AND HUME TOOK THE LINE THAT IT COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE PARTICULARLY AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE FELT THAT IT COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE AND DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON BRITISH ATTITUDES AND WOULD UNDERCUT U.S. AMBASSADORS IN LONDON AND DUBLIN. HE SUGGESTED THAT A COMPROMISE WOULD BE TO SEEK THE APPOINTMENT OF A PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER RATHER THAN AN ENVOY. MOYNIHAN WAS RECEPTIVE TO HUME'S REMARKS AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT PRESS HARD ON THE ENVOY PROPOSAL.

F) ON DISINVESTMENT, HUME STRESSED THE NEED NOT TO PUT IMPEDIMENTS IN THE WAY OF CREATING FURTHER INVESTMENT AND JOBS IN N.I. THE MC BRIDE PRINCIPLES WHILE INOCUOUS IN THEMSELVES HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT. THE WAY TO DEAL WITH HISTORICAL DISCRIMINATION WAS TO CREATE FURTHER EMPLOYMENT AND LOCATE IT IN A FAIR MANNER.

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CORRECTION LETTER C) FIRST LINE SHOULD READ

WHEN QUESTIONED ON THE STICKING POINT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS,

NED