



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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TO HQ FROM BELFAST

CRUINNIU

FOR O TUATHAIL FROM LILLIS

MY OPPOSITE NUMBER SPOKE AGAIN LAST NIGHT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THE BASIS OF YOUR LATER MESSAGES YESTERDAY TO O CEALLAIGH. THE OTHER SIDE UNDERSTAND THE REASONS ADVANCED BY US FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TAOISEACH AND THE TANAISTE FOR HAVING AN INTERVAL BETWEEN THE INFORMAL MEETING AND THE CONFERENCE. THEY TAKE THIS AS A FURTHER EARNEST OF DUBLIN'S SERIOUS APPROACH TO THE CONFERENCE.

KING ASKED ELLIOTT, HOWEVER, TO CONVEY A NUMBER OF POINTS TO ME AND ELLIOTT ADDED SOME BACKGROUND FOR MY INFORMATION.

KING'S TWO MAIN POINTS WERE:

FIRST KING EXPLAINED TO US THROUGH ELLIOTT YESTERDAY THAT THERE ARE -----

'UNSHAKABLE' PARLIAMENTARY REASONS WHY THE 8TH AND 9TH APRIL ARE OUT. THOSE REASONS ALSO AFFECT THE 10TH APRIL. THE NEXT WEEK IS HOLY WEEK. KING HAS ASKED DUBLIN TO UNDERSTAND A PERSONAL CONSIDERATION IN HIS OWN CASE WHICH IS THAT HOLY WEEK IS THE ONLY TIME FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AHEAD WHEN HE CAN TAKE A BREAK PERSONALLY. ASIDE FROM THE BUSY PERIOD AHEAD ON THE GROUND IN THE NORTH, HE WILL BE EXPECTED TO PLAY HIS PART IN THE CAMPAIGN LEADING UP TO THE LOCAL ELECTIONS ON MAY 7TH. HE PRIVATELY EXPECTS THERE TO BE A GENERAL ELECTION DECLARED WITHIN DAYS OF MAY 7TH AND THAT WOULD ENGAGE HIM HEAVILY ALSO UNTIL ELECTION DAY.

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