

Mr Harold Black
Mr Bloomfield
Mr Ramsey

Mr has seen.

The attached telex reports have been sent to British posts abroad (the second one is directed to America) by telex. George Holt of COI. came over to weeks ago to see how he cd help us & this is one of the outcomes. It is more favourably couched than we wd have dared to write it!

EV
7/9/71

ITEM: HEATH-LYNCH MEETING

BY GEORGE HOLT, HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR, L.P.S.

THE TWO DAYS OF TALKS BETWEEN MR. HEATH AND MR. JACK LYNCH, THE PREMIER OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC, ENDED TODAY (TUESDAY) WITH LITTLE POSITIVE AT ALL TO OFFER IMMEDIATELY TO THE EASEMENT OF THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

LITTLE SUCH, IN REALITY, HAD BEEN EXPECTED IN WHITEHALL, WHERE THE MEETING WAS PROPOSED TO ENSURE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING IN DUBLIN OF BOTH BRITISH POLICY AND BRITISH PURPOSES. THIS NOW EXISTS AND IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY MR. LYNCH.

WITH IT, HOWEVER, IT IS TRANSPARENTLY CLEAR ALSO, TONIGHT, THAT IN LONDON MR. LYNCH'S ATTITUDE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION IN NORTHERN IRELAND IS REGARDED AS ENTIRELY RIGID. DISCUSSION OF THIS ATTITUDE HAS TAKEN MUCH OF THE NINE HOURS OF TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS AND IN THE END IT HAS LEFT RESTRICTIONS AND RESTRAINTS UPON THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS THAT CAN ALLEVIATE AND ERADICATE THE PROBLEMS OF THE CATHOLIC MINORITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

MR. LYNCH HAS DEMANDED - AND BEEN REFUSED - THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS AIMED AT INCREASING THE CATHOLIC MINORITY'S SHARE IN THE PUBLIC LIFE OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

HE HAS ALSO BEEN OFFERED - AND HAS REJECTED - AN INVITATION TO A TRIPARTITE MEETING WITH MR. HEATH AND MR. FAULKNER. HIS ATTITUDE HAS CLEARLY BEEN IDENTIFIED IN LONDON AS TANTAMOUNT TO IGNORING THE EXISTENCE OF THE BORDER, REJECTING THE BRITISH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND, AND FAILING TO RECOGNISE MR. FAULKNER AS PREMIER OF THE PROVINCE.

HE IS ALSO OFFERED - ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO SIGN THAT HE HAS ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL AT THE MOMENT - THE CLOSEST CONTINUOUS CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AS THE REMEDIES AND ALLEVIATIONS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND SITUATION ARE SOUGHT.

IN THIS CONNECTION MR. HEATH EXPLAINED THAT HE RECOGNISED THE LEGITIMATE CONCERN OF THE REPUBLIC IN THE WELFARE OF THE CATHOLIC MINORITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. HE HIMSELF, AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, HAD CONCERN WITH ATTITUDES, IN THE REPUBLIC, TO EVENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. SO THERE WAS, INDEED, A BASIS FOR COMMON CONCERN. BUT, HE REPEATED, THE BORDER WAS NOT, AND COULD NOT BE AN ISSUE.

HE OFFERED MR. LYNCH - AND REPEATED THE OFFER MANY TIMES DURING THE TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSION - TO REMAIN IN CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH THE IRISH PREMIER. IT IS AN OFFER OF CONTINUOUS BILATERAL CONTACT WELL BEYOND ANY OFFER WHICH HAS BEEN MADE BEFORE BY ANY BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TO ANY PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC.

HAVING MADE THIS OFFER, HOWEVER, MR. HEATH ONCE MORE HAD TO EMPHASISE THE BORDER WAS NOT REPEAT NOT AT ISSUE. HE REMINDED MR. LYNCH THAT THIS HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS AND HAD BEEN MOST RECENTLY REITERATED, APART FROM BY HIS OWN ADMINISTRATION, BY THE PREVIOUS BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN THE DOWNING STREET DECLARATION OF AUGUST NINETEENSIXTYNINE.

MR. HEATH IN THE PAST TWO DAYS HAS EXPLAINED BRITISH POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE GREATEST DETAIL, AND HAS SET IT OUT UNDER THE TWO SIGNIFICANT HEADINGS:

- (I) TO IMPROVE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CATHOLIC MINORITY TO SHARE IN THE PUBLIC LIFE OF NORTHERN IRELAND.
- (II) TO ROOT OUT TERRORISM.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE BRITISH AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND GOVERNMENTS WERE NOT SEEKING TO EXCLUDE ANY PROPOSAL FROM THEIR CONSIDERATION OF WAYS OF ACHIEVING THE FIRST OF THESE AIMS.

IN THE DRIVE TO ROOT OUT TERRORISM HE HAS PRESSED MR. LYNCH FOR AN INTENSIFICATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC, OF PRESSURE ON THE I.R.A. IN PRESSING FOR MORE EFFECTIVE STEPS TO PREVENT WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES CROSSING THE BORDER HE SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF INVESTIGATING BOGUS ORDERS FOR QUARRY EXPLOSIVES, WHICH ARE THEN RUN INTO THE PROVINCE. MR. LYNCH CLAIMED IN REPLY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE SO FAR AS THE IRA WAS CONCERNED. BUT IN THESE LONG DISCUSSIONS, DESPITE PROLONGED PRESSURE AND GREAT EMPHASIS, MR. HEATH HAS GAINED NO REPEAT NO ENCOURAGEMENT FROM MR. LYNCH THAT MORE CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT THE RUNNING OF GUNS AND EXPLOSIVES ACROSS THE BORDER.

ON THE QUESTION OF INTERNMENT IN THE REPUBLIC, MR. LYNCH INDICATED THAT THIS WOULD BE CONSIDERED INTERNALLY ONLY IF THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC REQUIRED IT OR WARRANTED IT.

HE MADE NO REPEAT NO PROPOSAL ABOUT APPROACHING THE UNITED NATIONS CONCERNING OBSERVER FORCES ON THE BORDER.

MR. HEATH, IN UNDERLINING HIS OFFER OF CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH MR. LYNCH SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A FURTHER MEETING BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONTINUE.

ENDS ITEM..