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1. Sir Ewart
2. POL/S
cc Mr. Gerrall

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PS/SV E Dell 67/5.



NOTE OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND
SIR OLIVER WRIGHT IN NIO LONDON ON 3 MAY 1984

The Secretary of State saw HM Ambassador to the United States, Sir Oliver Wright, on 3 May. This was partly a courtesy call, but the Secretary of State took the opportunity to discuss the handling of the presentation of the Government's response to the Forum report in the United States. Mr Boys Smith and Mr Lyon were present.

Sir Oliver said that from the point of view of the various American audiences, he believed the Government's initial reaction had been about right. While the American public generally would take little interest in the report, it would be run pretty hard by committed Irish-Americans, and the Friends of Ireland and other committed Congressmen would need to respond in like manner. It would be important for the British Government to be seen to be taking some action with the Dublin Government in the wake of the report.

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Looking further ahead, the Ambassador said that we needed to ensure that the British Government's position was understood by the President when he visited the Republic in June. He would be grateful if the NIO could provide him before the middle of June with a short paper on the Government's considered response to the Forum report in a form which could be included in the President's briefing. He was considering also whether the Prime Minister might be invited to send a personal message to the President about the report. This would have greater impact, but it might appear over anxious. He would consider further.

The Ambassador said that he thought there would be considerable advantage if the Secretary of State were able to visit the United States before the summer. The week of 18 June would be most convenient, and would be a time when Senators and Congressmen were in Washington. As well as meetings with them and with the Administration, he thought if time allowed that the Secretary of State might also

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visit Boston or New York and perhaps San Francisco.

The Ambassador said that he agreed with the Secretary of State that recent Libyan threats had again underlined that the IRA were a form of international terrorism. This was understood by the Administration and its agencies, but not by the political community. It was in his judgement a point worth making in appropriate contexts. But he doubted if it should be pressed too strongly.

The Secretary of State said that he agreed it was important not to let the Government's case go by default, particularly in the face of the considerable efforts being made by the Irish Government to gain acceptance of the Forum Report. He had already made clear that there would be consultations following the report, and he hoped that the Prime Minister might agree to say shortly that she intended to meet Dr FitzGerald in due course. This would alleviate a good deal of the pressure. He agreed that the NIO should provide a paper on the Forum report for the President's briefing. He was content, subject to subsequent developments to plan on the basis of a visit to the United States in the week of 18 June.

J. M. Lyon

J M LYON
Private Secretary

3rd May 1984

cc PS/Sofs (L&B)
PS/Mr Scott (L&B)
PS/PUS (L&B)
~~PS/Sir Ewart Bell~~
Mr Brennan
Mr Angel
Mr Doyne Ditmas
Mr Boys Smith
Mr Bickham

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