

FONIO 005/23

PP NIO BELFAST

GRS 404

RESTRICTED

FM FCO 221800Z NOV 84

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1999 OF 22 NOVEMBER

AND TO PRIORITY BIS NEW YORK

INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, UKREP BRUSSELS, CANBERRA, OTTAWA, DUBLIN,
AND NIO BELFAST.

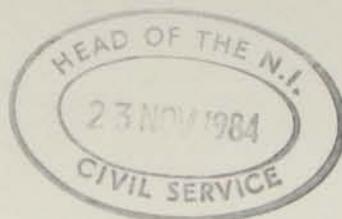
ANGO-IRISH SUMMIT: AFTERMATH

1. IN THE LAST 24 HOURS THERE HAVE BEEN SHARP REACTIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S POST-SUMMIT PRESS CONFERENCE AND TO MR HURD'S PRESS CONFERENCE, FROM THE TAOISEACH AND MEMBERS OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT.
2. IN A PRIVATE MEETING OF HIS OWN PARLIAMENTARY PARTY ON THE EVENING OF 21 NOVEMBER, THE TAOISEACH REPORTEDLY AGREED TO A SUGGESTION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S BEHAVIOUR AT HER PRESS CONFERENCE WAS 'GRATUITOUSLY OFFENSIVE' AND MR BARRY IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE VOLUNTEERED THAT HER BEHAVIOUR WAS 'DISGRACEFUL'. THE TANAISTE, MR SPRING, YESTERDAY ISSUED A FORMAL STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT DESCRIBING AS 'ASTONISHING AND UNACCEPTABLE' MR HURD'S 'SELECTIVE' REFERENCE TO 'SOME OF THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE COURSE OF A CONFIDENTIAL MEETING.' 'THE IRISH RADIO NEWS' HEADLINE THIS MORNING WAS THAT THE TAOISEACH, MR BARRY, MR SPRING, MR HAUGHEY AND MR HUME WERE ALL CRITICAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S AND MR HURD'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS.
3. THE IRISH RADIO MIDDAY NEWS LEAD ITEM ON 22 NOVEMBER QUOTED OFFICIALS AT NO 10 AS SAYING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NO REGRETS ABOUT WHAT SHE HAD SAID AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT MEETING OR ABOUT HOW SHE HAD SAID IT.
4. DURING PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME THIS AFTERNOON, MR ALFRED MORRIS MP ASKED 'HOW DOES THE PRIME MINISTER RESPOND TO THE IRISH PRIME MINISTER'S CHARGE THAT SHE WAS GRATUITOUSLY OFFENSIVE TO (REST OF QUESTION LOST IN SHOUTING).' SHE REPLIED 'TOTAL DISAGREEMENT. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND HIS COMMENT IN ANY WAY'.
5. HM EMBASSY, DUBLIN HAVE COMMENTED THAT WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE HAPPENED IS THAT THE PRESSURE ON THE TAOISEACH FROM THE OPPOSITION TOGETHER WITH FEELINGS OF ANGER AND FRUSTRATION AMONGST COALITION BACK-BENCHERS HAVE COMBINED TO OVERCOME HIS NATURAL AND INSTINCTIVE COURTESY. THE SENSE OF HUMILIATION AND WOUNDED PRIDE AMONGST OPPOSITION TD'S, ALREADY APPARENT BEFORE MR HURD'S PRESS CONFERENCE IS NOW WIDESPREAD AND OVERT.
6. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION ONLY, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT OFFICIALS AT NO 10 GAVE THE RESPONSE IN PARA 4 ABOVE OFF-THE-RECORD.
7. THE LESS SAID ABOUT THIS THE BETTER UNTIL TEMPER HAVE COOLED. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE ENDEAVOUR TO AVOID BEING DRAWN.

HOWE

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SENT RECD 1301Z/23 JB/JH



PRIVATE OFFICE
PUS
MR BOURN
MR MERIFIELD
MR GILLILAND
SIR EWART BELL
MR BUXTON
MR COULSON
MR REEVE
LIAISON X 2
RUC

23 NOV 1984

RECEIVED.....

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