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TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3501 OF 23 NOVEMBER

INFO DUBLIN, N I O BELFAST, B I S NEW YORK, C G NEW YORK,

INFO SAVING OTHER C G'S IN U S A, OTTAWA, CANBERRA,

ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT: INITIAL U.S. REACTIONS

SUMMARY

1. INITIAL POST-SUMMIT MEDIA COVERAGE RELATIVELY LIGHT. MAIN POINTS OF COMMUNIQUE NOTED, BUT DISAPPOINTMENT IN DUBLIN AN INCREASINGLY STRONG THEME. CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED CONCERN.

DETAIL

2. THERE HAS BEEN NO IMMEDIATE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT. DESPITE SEVERAL ANTICIPATORY ARTICLES, INITIAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE WAS LIGHT, WITH REPORTS EMPHASISING THE REALISM AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE APPROACH OF BOTH SIDES. THE WASHINGTON POST ON 20 NOVEMBER SPECULATED THAT, ALTHOUGH IRISH EXPECTATIONS HAD RECENTLY BEEN SCALED DOWN, AN QUOTE OVERTLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE UNQUOTE BY H.M.G. COULD HURT DR FITZGERALD POLITICALLY AT HOME. THE BOSTON GLOBE SPOKE OF THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS MAKING MAJOR PROGRESS IN REACHING A COMMON ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM, BUT ALSO EMPHASISED THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF IRISH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THEIR DOUBTS ABOUT THE VALUE OF A FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN MR HURD AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL LEADERS. THE NEW YORK TIMES CARRIED ONLY SHORT FACTUAL PIECES. C.B.S. RADIO CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING AS A QUOTE NON-EVENT UNQUOTE, BUT NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO STRESSED THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION, HIGHLIGHTED COOPERATION IN THE SECURITY AREA AND SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF THE WIDE-RANGING AGENDA FOR THE CONTINUING CONTACTS BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS.

3. REPORTS OF THE LATEST STATEMENTS BY DR FITZGERALD, MR BARRY AND MR SPRING (YOUR TELNO 1999) ARE CARRIED IN TODAY'S U.S. PRESS, WHICH AS A RESULT CONVEYS MORE PESSIMISM SECOND THOUGHTS ON THE SUMMIT. THE WASHINGTON POST QUOTES IRISH OFFICIALS AS DESCRIBING THEIR GOVERNMENT'S MOOD AS QUOTE DESPONDENT UNQUOTE AND SUGGESTING THAT THERE IS SUCH QUOTE GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT UNQUOTE WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT DOUBTS HAVE BEEN RAISED ABOUT HOLDING ANOTHER SUMMIT EARLY NEXT YEAR. THE ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT THERE ARE THREE SOURCES OF IRISH DISPLEASURE - THE PRIME MINISTER'S PUBLIC REJECTION OF THE THREE FORUM MODELS, WHICH QUOTE HAS CAUSED GREAT POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT FOR FITZGERALD UNQUOTE: SECOND, THE PRIME MINISTER'S AND MR HURD'S COMMENTS ON QUOTE ALIENATION UNQUOTE: AND LAST, OUR INSISTENCE THAT SOLUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND COULD NOT BE IMPOSED BY BRITAIN.

4. CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS (INCLUDING THE STAFF OF THE SPEAKER AND OF THE HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP) HAVE EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT TO US AT THE OUTCOME OF THE SUMMIT. ALTHOUGH THEY WELCOME THE FACT THAT THE DIALOGUE WILL CONTINUE, THEY REGRET THAT TANGIBLE RESULTS AT THE SUMMIT WERE, IN THEIR VIEW, SPARSE.

5. COPIES OF MAIN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FOLLOW BY BAG FROM B.I.S.

F.C.O. PASS SAVING TO CANBERRA, UKREP BRUSSELS

WRIGHT