

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM: A M DODDS
31 AUGUST 1990

ASST. / NH 9/9.
SEC
- 1 SEP 1990
CENT SEC

MD/11469/90/JEC

- cc PS/Sec of State (B&L) - B
- PS/Min of State (B&L) - B
- PS/Dr Mawhinney (B&L) - B
- PS/Mr Needham (B&L) - B
- PS/PUS (B&L) - B
- PS/Sir K Bloomfield - B
- Mr Ledlie - B
- Mr Fell, DED
- Mr Alston - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Spence - B
- Mr Steele - B
- Mr Blackwell - B
- Mr Hill - B
- Mr J McConnell - B
- Mr Daniell - B
- Mr Bell
- Mr Hallett - B
- Mr Archer, RID - B
- HMA, Dublin

387/8
31 AUGUST
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Mr Ham ~~MA~~ 4/9
to see a return pl
M 3/9

Mr Chilcot - B

NEXT INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

While we are still working towards an IGC on 14 September, some copy recipients are already aware of evidence that the Irish side may be seeking a postponement. Mr O'Donovan has recently hinted that Minister Collins has been feeling the strain of world events. His role in the release of Brian Keenan is already well known to us, and it is unlikely that he will be able to take any vacation before projected trips to Korea and the United Nations in the third week of September. DFA may therefore come back to us for a postponement of the Conference until early October, possibly the first week.

2. We were advised to continue on the basis of a Conference on 14 September, at least for the time being, but these intimations are probably meant to warn us of a definite proposal for postponement fairly shortly. At the very least, the Irish side are testing the water, aware as they are of the critical importance which the Secretary of State attaches to these next weeks, as far as political development is concerned. The Irish side know that the Secretary of State will not return from leave until 6 September, and they may

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wait until then before formally requesting a later date for the Conference. Mr Thomas' initial reaction was that while we could probably live with a date fairly late in September, early October was pushing it. It may therefore be useful to give the Irish a signal next week as to what our reaction might be and I would be grateful for any guidance which you and other colleagues can give me.

(Signed)

A M DODDS

31 August 1990

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