

ZCZC
S CAN 0001
CONFIDENTIAL
OO FCOLN NIOLN DUBLI BREEC
FM WASHI TO FCOLN
041540Z OCT
GRS 500

CONFIDENTIAL
DEDIP
FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 2202
OF 041540Z OCTOBER 93
AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO(L)
INFO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN, UKREP BRUSSELS

UKREP BRUSSELS: FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY
NIO(L): FOR PS/SECRETARY OF STATE: CHILCOT: COOKE

JOHN HUME

1. JOHN HUME CALLED IN FOR A DRINK YESTERDAY. I ASKED HOW FAR HE REALLY THOUGHT HE HAD GOT IN HIS TALKS WITH GERRY ADAMS. HUME SAID THAT THE NIO KNOW ALL THE BACKGROUND. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT ADAMS DID WANT TO JOIN A POLITICAL PROCESS. IN HUME'S VIEW, THE LANGUAGE ADAMS HAD USED AFTER THEIR TALKS WAS DIFFERENT FROM ANY SINN FEIN HAD USED BEFORE. IT INCLUDED A REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO GET THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH TRADITIONS IN THE NORTH. HUME HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO REITERATE THE STATEMENT MADE BY MR BROOKE THAT BRITAIN HAD NO SELFISH ECONOMIC OR STRATEGIC INTEREST IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

2. I POINTED OUT THAT THE HUME/ADAMS TALKS HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY FURTHER BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN BELFAST AND LONDON. ON SELF-DETERMINATION, THE REPUBLICAN VIEW APPEARED TO REMAIN FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM OURS WHICH WAS AND WOULD REMAIN AS SET OUT IN ARTICLE ONE OF THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT. HUME THOUGHT THIS GAP COULD SOMEHOW BE BRIDGED BUT DID NOT SAY HOW. IN ANY EVENT HE IS CONVINCED THAT HIS TALKS HOLD SOME PROMISE AND HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE THEM. I SAID THAT OF COURSE IF HE WERE ABLE TO CONVINCED THE IRA TO ABANDON VIOLENCE, THAT WOULD CHANGE THE WHOLE SITUATION. BUT WE WERE BOUND TO BE SCEPTICAL ABOUT THAT. IN THE PAST WHEN SOME REPUBLICAN LEADERS HAD SOUGHT TO DO THIS, THE MOVEMENT HAD SPLIT. HUME APPEARED TO THINK THIS MIGHT HAPPEN AGAIN.

3. I SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT NOT TO CREATE EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS DURING HIS MEETINGS HERE, PARTICULARLY WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. IT WOULD NOT HELP HUME'S CASE IF CONGRESSMEN STARTED MAKING WILDLY OVER-OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR AN IRA RENUNCIATION OF VIOLENCE. HUME SAID THAT HE WOULD BE CAUTIOUS IN HIS CONTACTS ON THE HILL. HE KNOWS THAT SPEAKER FOLEY IS VERY SCEPTICAL ABOUT ANY REAL CHANGE ON THE PART OF THE IRA.

4 HUME ARGUED THAT THE U.S. PEACE ENVOY IDEA SHOULD BE VIEWED POSITIVELY AS AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY FORTY MILLION IRISH-AMERICANS. I SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT KEEN ON THE IDEA AND NOR FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WERE WE. IF A U.S. ENVOY WERE SENT TO NORTHERN IRELAND, HIS MISSION WOULD BE LIKELY TO END IN FIASCO. HUME SAID THAT THE IDEA SHOULD BE CARRIED FORWARD ONLY WITH THE CONSENT OF BOTH THE IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS.

5. HUME SAID THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT LATER THIS WEEK. HE ALSO WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE NIO (CHILCOT) ON HIS RETURN.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO PRIVATE SECRETARY: PUS: HEAD/RID AND LYNE
NO. 10.

RENWICK

YYYY

SPECAN 0001

NNNN