

RESTRICTED
FM DUBLIN
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OF 161130Z DECEMBER 93
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JOINT DECLARATION: REACTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC

SUMMARY

1. VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS WELCOME. CALLS FOR PIRA TO RENOUNCE VIOLENCE.

DETAIL

2. THE JOINT DECLARATION HAS MET A VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS WELCOME IN THE REPUBLIC. THE TAOISEACH WAS GIVEN A HERO'S WELCOME BY COALITION DEPUTIES IN THE DAIL (SEE MIFT) AND CONGRATULATED BY OPPOSITION LEADERS, WHO ENDORSED THE DECLARATION AND CALLED ON THE PARAMILITARIES - IN PARTICULAR PIRA - TO RENOUNCE VIOLENCE. THE CABINET AND THE FIANNA FAIL PARLIAMENTARY PARTY HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR THE DECLARATION.
3. TODAY'S PRESS (SEE MY MIFT) GIVES A SIMILAR WELCOME, WITH THE USUAL PAGES OF ANALYSIS. THE GENERAL MESSAGE IS THAT IT IS TIME FOR SINN FEIN AND PIRA TO PUT UP OR SHUT UP.
4. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUPRISED BY THE COMPLEXITY AND WEIGHT OF THE DECLARATION AND IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR THE DETAILS TO BE DIGESTED. THERE IS GREAT INTEREST IN THE REACTIONS OF BOTH SIDES OF THE COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND SOME UNEASE. SO FAR, AT LEAST, THERE IS NO TRIUMPHALISM. THE MOOD (EG IN THE DAIL) IS THAT THE DECLARATION IS A GENUINE BEST EFFORT BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT THE PRIME MINISTERS IN PARTICULAR DESERVE CREDIT FOR SHOWING COURAGE AND STATESMANSHIP.
5. THE FACT THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE SEEN TO BE UNITED WILL MAXIMIZE PRESSURE ON SINN FEIN AND MINIMIZE SUPPORT FOR THEM AND ADAMS. THE EFFECT ON SECURITY COOPERATION WILL BE POSITIVE, EVEN IF PIRA DOES NOT RENOUNCE VIOLENCE.

BLATHERWICK

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