

UNCLASSIFIED

140446

MDHIAN 6203

PS TO PRIME MINISTER
NO 10 DOWNING ST

UNCLASSIFIED
FM DUBLIN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 447
OF 081500Z DECEMBER 93
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(L), NIO(B)

NORTHERN IRELAND: FURTHER COMMENTS BY TAOISEACH

SUMMARY

1. TAOISEACH REPEATS WILLINGNESS TO PUT IN WRITING COMMITMENT TO HOLD A REFERENDUM ON ARTICLES 2 AND 3. REFUSES TO GIVE DETAILS OF PEACE INITIATIVE. OPPOSITION LEADERS SUPPORTIVE.

DETAIL

2. IN THE DAIL ON 7 DECEMBER THE TAOISEACH REPEATED HIS WEEKEND PLEDGE TO PUT IN WRITING THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO HOLD A REFERENDUM IN ARTICLES 2 AND 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION IN THE EVENT OF AN OVERALL NORTHERN IRELAND SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT 'TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE PEACE PROCESS MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS AND IDENTITIES OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND', BUT HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN ON THE ELEMENTS IN THE DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION OR THE POINTS OF DIFFICULTY BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

3. THE OPPOSITION DECLINED TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE TAOISEACH: INDEED, THEY CONTINUED TO EXPRESS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS OVER THE DECLARATION.

BLATHERWICK

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION . 131

MAIN

85

.NORTHERN IRELAND
RID
LEGAL ADVISERS
PUSD

SCD
PS
PS/MR GOODLAD
PS/MR HEATHCOAT-AMORY

PAGE 1
UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

INFO D
ECD(I)
NAD
NEWS D
NTCD
PLANNERS
RAD//MR HALLETT & MS HANCOCK

PS/PUS
CHIEF CLERK
SIR T DAUNT
MR ALSTON
MR GREENSTOCK
MR BEAMISH

ADDITIONAL 46

NORTHERN IRELAND

NNNN

NORTHERN IRELAND: FURTHER COMMENTS BY TAOISEACH
SUMMARY
1. TAOISEACH REPEATS WILLINGNESS TO PUT IN COMMITMENT TO HOLD A REFERENDUM ON ARTICLES 2 AND 3. REPUSES TO GIVE DETAILS OF PEACE INITIATIVE. OPPOSITION LEADERS SUPPORTIVE.
DETAIL
2. IN THE DATE ON 7 DECEMBER THE TAOISEACH REPEATED HIS WELKING PLEDGE TO PUT IN WRITING THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO HOLD A REFERENDUM IN ARTICLES 2 AND 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION IN THE EVENT OF AN OVERALL NORTHERN IRELAND SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE PEACE PROCESS MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS AND IDENTITIES OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND, BUT HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN ON THE ELEMENTS IN THE DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION OR THE POINTS OF DIFFICULTY BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.
3. THE OPPOSITION DECLINED TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE TAOISEACH: INDEED, THEY CONTINUED TO EXPRESS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS OVER THE DECLARATION.
BLATHERWICK

TTTT
DISTRIBUTION
131
MAIN
NORTHERN IRELAND
RID
LEGAL ADVISERS
PUSD
SCD
PS
PS/MR GOODLAD
PS/MR HEATHCOT-AMORT