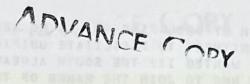
UNCLASSIFIED FM DUBLIN TO IMMEDIATE FCO TELNO 442 OF D61132Z DECEMBER 93 INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(L), NIO(B), BIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON



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ANGLO-IRISH NON SUMMIT, 3 DECEMBER: IRISH POLITICIANS' WEEKEND STATEMENTS OF THE PROPERTY OF

CHANGE COURSE ATH NO SHEE SKIDDISHI TANVE SIN HI T

SUMMARY 1. TAOISEACH OFFERS TO PUT COMMITMENT TO REFERENDUM ON ARTICLES 2 AND 3 IN WRITING. SPRING SEEKS TO REASSURE UNIONISTS. OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS CLAIM TAOISEACH'S APPROACH ONE-SIDED.

## DETAIL

- 2. SPEAKING ON RTE RADIO ON SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER, THE TAOISEACH SAID THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE STILL ON COURSE FOR A PEACE INITIATIVE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO PUT HIS EXISTING COMMITMENT TO ARTICLES 2 AND 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION TO A REFERENDUM, IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL PACKAGE, IN WRITING. ''I AM PREPARED TO WRITE IT IF SOMEBODY WANTS IT. IT BRIDGES THE GAP, OK''. BUT HE STRESSED THAT HE COULD ONLY CONTEMPLATE AMENDMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT, AS PART OF A TALKS PROCESS SEPARATE FROM THE CURRENT PEACE PROCESS.
- 3. THE TANAISTE, DICK SPRING, IN A PARTY SPEECH SAID ''WE HAVE SAID THAT IN ANY OVERALL SETTLEMENT THERE WOULD BE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, AND WE PROPOSE TO ADHERE TO THAT' !. HE ALSO SAID THAT 'WE MUST BE PREPARED TO RECOGNISE, AND TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT, THE RIGHTS OF UNIONISTS AS BRITISH SUBJECTS AND CITIZENS''. HE DELIBERATELY SOUGHT TO ADJUST EXPECTATIONS OF AN AGREED ''PEACE DECLARATION'' BY CHRISTMAS: A DEADLINE WHICH HE SAID WAS NOT SACROSANCT.
- JOHN BRUTON, LEADER OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY FINE GAEL, 4. ON RADIO THIS MORNING, QUESTIONED THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S REPORTED INSISTENCE ON THE CONCEPT OF 'SELF DETERMINATION NORTH AND SOUTH''. HMG HAD ALREADY CONCEDED THIS IN RELATION TO

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THE NORTH BY DECLARING IT HAD NO SELFISH INTEREST, AND IN ITS

1985 COMMITMENT TO FACILITATE UNIFICATION IF A NORTHERN

MAJORITY WANTED IT: THE SOUTH ALREADY HAD SELF DETERMINATION.

PRESSING HMG TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE PERSUADERS WAS

INCOMPATIBLE WITH SELF DETERMINATION IN THE NORTH. HE ALSO

INCOMPATIBLE WITH SELF DETERMINATION IN THE NORTH. HE ALSO

SAID THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO TRY TO SEPARATE RIGIDLY THE

PEACE AND TALKS PROCESSES. HE SAID HE WOULD PURSUE THIS IN THE

DAIL THIS WEEK. (NB BRUTON'S RATIONAL VIEWS ARE NOT SHARED BY

ALL IN HIS PARTY, INCLUDING SOME ON HIS FRONT BENCH.)

5. MARY HARNEY, LEADER OF THE PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRAT PARTY, SAID THAT IF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WANTED HMG TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUE AND LEGITIMACY OF THE GOAL OF IRISH UNITY, THEN IT MUST BE READY TO BALANCE THIS WITH SIMILAR RECOGNITION OF UNIONIST ATTACHMENT TO BRITAIN.

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