

UNCLASSIFIED  
FM DUBLIN  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 442  
OF 061132Z DECEMBER 93  
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(L), NIO(B), BIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON  
FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO PS/NO 10

ADVANCE COPY ✓

MY 2 IPTS  
ANGLO-IRISH NON SUMMIT, 3 DECEMBER: IRISH POLITICIANS' WEEKEND  
STATEMENTS

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. IF 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.

4. JOHN BRUTON, LEADER OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY FINE GAEL, 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

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 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.

BLATHERWICK

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

15

ADVANCE 15

.NORTHERN IRELAND

PS

PS/PUS

RID//HD

INFO D//HD

NEWS D//HD

**PS/NO.10**

CAOFF//PS/SEC OF THE CABINET

CAOFF//MISS NEVILLE-JONES

NIO(L)//MR CHILCOT

NIO(L)//PS/S OF S

NIO(L)//PS/LORD ARRAN

NIO(L)//MR THOMAS

NIO(L)//MR BELL

NIO(L)//MR COOKE SIL

NNNN

