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(5)

NORTHERN
IRELAND OFFICE
25 NOV 1993
7
SIL DIVISION

FROM: J McKervill
British Embassy, Dublin

DATE: 23 November 1993

cc: PS/Sofs (L&B) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Wood (L&B) - B
Mr Brooker - B
Mr Quinn - B
Mr Dodds - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Ms Lodge - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr Archer, RID - B
Mr Caine - B

↑ Bellows copy
6 of 25 Nov 93
Desha

*Ms Hamill
PA Framework Doc.*

Mr Cooke - B
SIL/TPU

THE IRISH LEAKED DOCUMENT: COMMENTARY ON TEXTUAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. Thank you for sending us a copy of your commentary on the Irish document leaked to the Irish Press on 19 November. We would not argue with your assessment of the document save to say that it might not be as easy to bridge the gap between our own draft and this one as you might imagine. In general, the substance of the document has received little criticism within the Republic of Ireland, and indeed even the Progressive Democrats leader welcomed it because it presented a balanced approach, taking account of the two traditions. There is little pressure, at the moment therefore, for the Irish to give too much away in future negotiations on the paper, if they take place. Until we know more about the circumstances of the leak, it is difficult to estimate how much room for negotiation the Irish have left themselves in the text. We must assume there is some - they would surely not stake out their bottom line at this stage. But it may be that some of the constitutional language is closer to a take it or leave it basis.

2. I look forward to seeing the record of your discussion with Michael Ancram on 22 November. In the meantime can I add just one further comment on the text. Paragraph 16 commits

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both Governments to take as fundamental the equal respect for the legitimacy of the two major traditions that exist "in Ireland". I would prefer this to be "in Northern Ireland". The legitimacy of whatever traditions exist in the Republic should be outwith the remit of this exercise.

Handwritten notes:
21/11/83
Below
on
J.M.
M.K.
framed doc

J McKervill

- PS/Michael Antrim - 2
- PS/Michael Antrim (B, LINDSI) - 2
- PS/Mr Peil - 2
- Mr Long - 2
- Mr Thomas - 2
- Mr Peil - 2
- Mr Williams - 2
- Mr Wood (12/11) - 2
- Mr Brooker - 2
- Mr Gilin - 2
- Mr Doherty - 2
- Mr Macgill - 2
- Mr Mahony - 2
- Mr Lohan - 2
- Mr Archer, AIB - 2
- Mr. Dublin - 2
- Mr Cairns - 2

Mr Cooke - 2

THE IRISH LAMER DOCUMENT - A COMMENTARY ON TEXTUAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. I am grateful to you for your most helpful commentary on the Irish document (accompanying your minute of 22 November to PS/Michael Antrim).
2. As you indicate, this is the most forthright document which has emanated from the Irish, and certainly increases our understanding of what the Irish side consider would provide adequate constitutional balance.
3. Inevitably with such a document there are both positive and negative features, and I offer the following comments by way of supplementing your commentary:

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27/11/83