

UNCLASSIFIED
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TO DESKBY 031240Z FCO
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AND TO DESKBY 031240Z NIO(L), NIO(B)

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR HAUGHEY: 4 DECEMBER

SUMMARY

1. IRISH PRESS REPORTS THAT MR HAUGHEY WILL URGE THE PRIME MINISTER TO TAKE A NEW JOINT POLITICAL INITIATIVE ON NORTHERN IRELAND.

2. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS COVER THE BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY BODY'S ADOPTION OF A REPORT ON FREIGHT TRANSPORT URGING UPGRADING OF DUBLIN-BELFAST RAIL LINK WITH EC FUNDS.

DETAIL

3. TODAY'S IRISH TIMES AND IRISH INDEPENDENT BOTH REPORT THAT AT THEIR MEETING ON 4 DECEMBER HAUGHEY WILL URGE THE PRIME MINISTER TO JOIN WITH HIM IN FORMULATING A NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVE ON NORTHERN IRELAND. THE TIMES SAYS THAT DETAILS OF THE INITIATIVE WERE NOT BEING DISCLOSED, BUT BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES ARISING FROM THE BRITISH GENERAL ELECTIONS AND THE UPSURGE OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, BOTH LEADERS MAY FIND IT PRUDENT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO WORKING STEADILY FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT RATHER THAN SPECIFIC MEASURES.

4. BOTH PAPERS ALSO REPORT THE BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY BODY'S ADOPTION AT ITS MEETING IN DUBLIN ON 2 DECEMBER OF A REPORT ON FREIGHT TRANSPORT RECOMMENDING THE UPGRADING OF THE BELFAST-DUBLIN RAIL LINK. IT SAYS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS EARMARKED FUNDS UNDER THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME BUT THAT ASSISTANCE COULD ONLY BE GIVEN IF THE TWO MEMBER STATES APPLIED FOR IT. IT SHOULD NOW BE A PRIORITY OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE REVITALISATION OF THE RAIL LINK.

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4. BOTH PAPERS ALSO REPORT THE BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY BODY'S ADOPTION AT ITS MEETING IN DUBLIN ON 2 DECEMBER OF A REPORT ON FREIGHT TRANSPORT RECOMMENDING THE UPGRADING OF THE BELFAST-DUBLIN RAIL LINK. IT SAYS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS earmarked funds under the transport infrastructure programme but that assistance could only be given if the two member states applied for it. IT SHOULD NOW BE A PRIORITY OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE REVITALISATION OF THE RAIL LINK.

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