

UNCLASSIFIED
FM DUBLIN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 458
OF 161131Z DECEMBER 93
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(L), NIO(B), WASHINGTON, BIS NEW YORK
INFO IMMEDIATE EC POSTS, ACTOR, SNUFFBOX

MIPT: DOWNING STREET DECLARATION

SUMMARY

1. STRONG SUPPORT FOR TAOISEACH IN THE DAIL.

DETAIL

2. ON THEIR RETURN FROM LONDON THE TAOISEACH AND TANAISTE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE DAIL TO BE GREETED BY AN UNPRECEDENTED STANDING OVATION FROM THE FIANNA FAIL AND LABOUR BENCHES. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE TAOISEACH'S STATEMENT (FULL TEXT FAXED TO FCO AND NIO) WERE:

- THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE DECLARATION WAS THAT PEOPLE OF EVERY POLITICAL OUTLOOK IN IRELAND COULD PURSUE AND PROTECT THEIR IDEAS AND INTERESTS THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITH NO NEED TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE, THREATS OR COERCION.

- THE OVERRIDING CRITERION WAS WHETHER "EACH STATEMENT IN IT" MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE, AND ADEQUATELY REFLECTED DEEPLY HELD FEARS AND ESSENTIAL INTERESTS.

- WHILE THERE WERE MANY WHO FELT THAT UP UNTIL NOW THE "FRAMEWORK HAS BEEN LOADED AGAINST THEM, UNDERMINING AS THEY SEE IT, THE NORMAL RULES OF DEMOCRACY" THE DECLARATION HELPED CREATE A LEVEL POLITICAL PLAYING FIELD, WHICH NO LONGER LEFT ANY EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE.

- PARAGRAPH 4 SHOWED "FULL RESPECT FOR THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF REPUBLICAN PHILOSOPHY, BUT IN A MANNER THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH SAFEGUARDING THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF UNIONISTS". IT WAS NOT NEW FOR NATIONAL SELF DETERMINATION TO BE EXPRESSED BY DIFFERENT PARTS OF "A COUNTRY" CONCURRENTLY. FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WAS HOW THE GDR AND FRG HAD BEEN REUNITED.

- "UNLESS AND UNTIL WE CAN PERSUADE A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE

MDHIAN

OF NORTHERN IRELAND TO JOIN WITH US, THERE WILL NOT BE A UNITED IRELAND''.

- THE DECLARATION SOUGHT NOT MERELY TO STATE THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF IRISH NATIONALISM, BUT TO REACH OUT TO UNIONISTS AND TO UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO THEIR FEARS.

- HE ASKED WHETHER, IF THERE WERE ANY FLAWS, DEFICIENCIES OR OMISSIONS, ANY OF THEM WERE SO VITAL AS TO WARRANT INDEFINITE CONTINUATION OF VIOLENCE, WHICH COULD HAVE VERY GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR 'EVERYONE ON THIS ISLAND'', PARTICULARLY NORTHERN NATIONALISTS.

- THERE WAS NO UNIONIST VETO, ONLY THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE CONSENT OF A MAJORITY. THE TASK NOW WAS TO FIND A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

3. THE TANAISTE REPEATED MUCH OF THIS GROUND. HE STRESSED THAT 'WE HAVE ADOPTED THE ROLE OF PERSUADERS. WHEN I SAY WE, I MEAN THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND WE THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND''. IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS OWN RECENT CONTACTS WITH UNIONISTS. DEPARTING FROM HIS PREPARED TEXT, HE SAID THAT 'WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A PERMANENT CESSATION OF VIOLENCE AND THE HANDING UP OF ARMS''. HE ALSO INCLUDED A FULSOME TRIBUTE TO JOHN HUME.

4. THE OPPOSITION GAVE CLEAR BACKING, CONGRATULATING THE TAOISEACH. BRUTON (LEADER, FINE GAEL) STRESSED THE NEED TO REACH OUT FURTHER TO MODERATE UNIONISTS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ANY CEASEFIRE BEING VERIFIED AND ARMS HANDED IN. HARNEY (LEADER, PDS) STRESSED THAT THE DECLARATION WENT AS FAR AS ANY DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT COULD GO TO ENABLE TERRORISTS TO RENOUNCE VIOLENCE.

5. SEE MIFT

BLATHERWICK

YYYY