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FM DUBLIN  
TO DESKBY 061230Z FCO  
TELNO 440  
OF 061130Z DECEMBER 93  
INFO DESKBY 061230Z NIO(L), NIO(B)  
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, EC POSTS, BIS NEW YORK

FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO PS/NO 10.

ANGLO-IRISH NON-SUMMIT, 3 DECEMBER

SUMMARY

1. SATISFACTORY OUTCOME FOR US AND FOR THE IRISH.

DETAIL

2. THE NON-SUMMIT ON 3 DECEMBER SUCCEEDED IN CLEARING THE AIR AFTER THE LEAKS AND REVELATIONS OF RECENT WEEKS, AND DEFINED THE ISSUES TO BE SETTLED IF WE ARE TO AGREE A /PEACE DECLARATION/. IT IS PROBABLY AS GOOD AN OUTCOME FOR US AS WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED. IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED HERE THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE AGAIN WORKING TOGETHER. IRISH MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS ARE ALSO PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME, WHICH HAS EASED DOMESTIC PRESSURES ON THEM.

3. THE PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND (SEE MY TELNO 439 AND MIFT), FRUSTRATED AT THE LACK OF A CLEAR OUTCOME, HAS ANALYSED THE OUTCOME TO DEATH, EMPHASISING BRITISH /DUPLICITY/ OVER CONTACTS WITH PIRA AND THE WIGGINGS ADMINISTERED TO BRITISH MINISTERS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF HOSTILE IRISH GOVERNMENT BRIEFING SINCE FRIDAY, THOUGH SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS OVER THE DRAFT DECLARATION, INCLUDING THE POINTS OF DIFFICULTY, HAVE PREDICTABLY LEAKED IN CONFUSED TERMS.

4. AS TO PUBLIC OPINION, FEW HERE WILL ENTIRELY DISCOUNT SINN FEIN CLAIMS ABOUT LAST WEEK'S REVELATIONS, AND MANY WILL BELIEVE THEM. IT WILL BE DAMAGING IF PIRA DRIBBLE OUT MORE BRITISH DOCUMENTS ON THE LINES OF THAT RELEASED ON THURSDAY, ESPECIALLY IF THEY AGAIN RELATE TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT.

5. SEE MY GIFTS (NOT TO ALL).

BLATHERWICK

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