

NORTHERN IRELAND

IMMEDIATE

PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/PUS  
MR GOODALL

PS/ S of S  
PS/MR R ANDREW, OAB 1/56  
MR BRENNAN  
MR BURNS  
MR J LYON

NIO

HD/RID  
Dep. HD/PUSD (2)  
HD/INFO DEPT  
HD/NEWS DEPT

SIR R ARMSTRONG }  
DIO } CABINET OFFICE  
PS/ NO 10 DOWNING STREET (3)

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

14.11.84

GRS  
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UNCLASSIFIED  
FM DUBLIN 131012Z MAR 85  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 135 OF 13 MARCH  
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO BELAST AND WASHINGTON



## ANGLO-IRISH TALKS

1. TODAY'S IRISH TIMES AND IRISH PRESS CARRY EDITORIALS ON REMARKS MADE BY MR HURD AT THE EAST BELFAST ROTARY CLUB ON 12 MARCH.

2. THE IRISH TIMES' TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

## A HINT FROM HURD

THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A VERY SMALL HINT OF A NEW OPEN-MINDEDNESS IN YESTERDAYS REMARKS BY THE NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY MR DOUGLAS HURD, WHEN HE SPOKE WITH REPORTERS AT EAST BELFAST ROTARY CLUB.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, HE TOOK ISSUE WITH CARDINAL O FIAICH'S BOSTON SPEECH, OR AT LEAST THOSE PARTS OF IT WHICH HAVE BEEN REPORTED OVER RECENT DAYS. THE CARDINAL CALLED FOR BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NORTH AND DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH IN THE CATHOLIC POPULATION WOULD MAKE UNITY INEVITABLE ONE DAY. MR HURD CAN HARDLY CONCUR.

BUT HE WENT ON TO SET OUT HIS OWN ANALYSIS OF THE NORTH'S PRIORITIES AT THIS TIME. FIRST HE SAID IS THE NECESSITY OF CREATING A SOCIETY WHICH BOTH COMMUNITIES ACCEPT AS FAIR AND REASONABLE SECOND IS THE DETERMINATION OF A "SOLID WORKING RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

THESE WERE SUPPOSEDLY, OFF-THE -CUFF REMARKS. THERE IS ALWAYS AN ELEMENT OF KITE-FLYING IN THAT SORT OF EXERCISE. BUT MR



AN ELEMENT OF KITE-FLYING IN THAT SORT OF EXERCISE. BUT MR HURD IS MAKING IT CLAR THAT HIS IS NOT THINKING SOLEY IN TERMS OF SOME INTERNAL CHANGES IN NORTHERN IRELAND: NOR IS DUBLIN'S ROLE ENVISAGED SIMPLY IN TERMS OF JOINT SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES. HE IS DROPPING HINTS FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO PICK THEM UP.

BY NOW, TOO, MR HURD IS LONG ENOUGH ON THE GROUND TO KNOW WHAT HIS 'SOLID WORKING RELATIONSHIP' WITH DUBLIN MUST INCLUDE: A GUARANTEED ROLE FOR THE IRISH GOVERNMENT IN THE RUNNING OF THE NORTH, SOME DEVICE OR OPERATION BY WHICH IT CAN GUARANTEE THE RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY. ?

IT WILL BE SOME MONTHS BEFORE THE NEXT ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT. AND THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT WHAT BRITIAN IS PREPARED TO PUT ON THE TABLE WHEN IT TAKES PLACE WILL SATISFY THE BASIC DEMANDS OF BOTH THE DUBLIN GOVERNMENT AND THE SDLP. BUT THERE ARE SIGNS OF SOME SMALL STIRRING. THE POLITICIANS, THE DIPLOMATS AND THE CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE DELICATE WORK TO DO BEFORE MRS THATCHER AND DR FITZGERALD SIT DOWN TOGETHER AGAIN.

3. THE IRISH PRESS EDITORIAL IS MUCH MORE CRITICAL. CLAIMING THAT MR HURD IS 'WRONG TO SAY THAT THE REAL DISCUSSION IS NOT ABOUT PARTITION AND THE BORDER' IT SAYS:

'THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS BURSTING TO THE SURFACE OF IRISH SOCIETY WHICH ARE CONNECTED WITH THE BORDER THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK IN ORDER TO AVOID THEM. THE RECENT SPATE OF ATTACKS ON OLD PEOPLE IN THE WEST IS APPARENTLY THE WORK OF THUGS WHO CROSS THE BORDER BY DAY IN THE GUISE OF ITINERANTS, SIZE UP THEIR VICITMS AND THEN RETURN AT NIGHT TO ATTACK THEM.

THE REPUBLIC IS DEPLOYING GARDAI TO GUARD THE BORDER IN ORDER TO PREVENT ATTACKS ON THE NORTH FROM THE SOUTH BUT APPARENTLY ATTACKS ARE MOUNTED FROM THE NORTH ON THE SOUTH''.

ASKING 'HOW FAR DOES THE STATES RESPONSIBILITY EXTEND TOWARDS PROTECTING THE BORDER IF THE DRAWING OFF OF POLICE RESOURCES ALLOWS THE SORT OF ATTACKS WE HAVE SEEN IN MAYO AND SLIGO?' THE PRESS COMMENTS HOWEVER THAT 'IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW THE ARMY CAN HELP IN THIS SITUATION, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED. IN FACT THERE HAVE BEEN CALLS FOR RETURNING THE TROOPS FROM LEBANON FOR THIS PURPOSE. BUT THIS AGAIN IS MORE EMOTIONAL THAN PRACTICAL' AND CONCLUDES ONLY THAT 'THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PLAINLY TELL MR HURD THAT HE IS BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE, TO A WRONG AND INFURIATING DEGREE ...'

4. FCO PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE LYON NIO (L)

GOODISON

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