H BLOCKS:
STATEMENT BY ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A FURTHER STATEMENT ON H BLOCKS WHICH
THE ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR JOHN KELLY, MADE ON
12 AUGUST (SEE MYTEL NO 290)

BEGIN
"YESTERDAY IT WAS REPORTED THAT H BLOCK ACTIVISTS THROUGHOUT
THE REPUBLIC WERE BEGINNING A CAMPAIGN TO DEMAND THE EARLY RECALL OF
THE DAIL "IN AN EFFORT TO FORCE A SOLUTION TO THE H BLOCK CRISIS".

JUST AS THE I.R.A.'S FRONT GROUPS TRY TO MOBILISE IN THEIR OWN
INTERESTS THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT, YET IGNORE
THAT GOVERNMENT'S LEADERSHIP WHEN IT DOES NOT SUIT THEM TO RESPECT
IT, SO TOO THE DAIL ITSELF IS TREATED AS A PAWN IN THEIR SINISTER
GAME.

THEY ARE PERFECTLY HAPPY TO CONCEDE PRESTIGE TO THE DAIL JUST SO
LONG AS THEY CAN USURP ITS NATURAL PUBLICITY VALUE FOR SOME OF THEIR
OWN OPERATIONS: BUT THEY SHOW, BY THEIR OTHER ACTIONS, THAT THEY
HOLD THE STATUS AND AUTHORITY OF THE IRISH NATION'S LEGISLATURE IN BRUTAL CONTEMPT.

THE VERY SAME DAIL, ABOUT THOSE RECALL THEY NOW SHOW SUCH PIUS DILIGENCE, HAS, NOT ONCE BUT REPEATEDLY, AND WITHOUT A SINGLE DISSSENTIENT VOICE, CONDEMNED VIOLENCE AS A MEANS TO IRISH UNITY ONLY BY PEACEFUL MEANS AND BY CONSENT.


AGAIN — AND I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR CITING THE LAW OF OUR CONSTITUTION TO PEOPLE WHO QUOTE ARTICLE 3 BUT NOTHING ELSE — THE DAIL IS DECLARED BY ARTICLE 26 TO BE THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR THE DECLARATION OR WAGING OF WAR BY IRELAND. YET THE VERY PEOPLE WHO NOW PRETEND SUCH AN URGENT RESPECT FOR THE DAIL HAVE IGNORED ITS SOLE AUTHORITY BY THEIR BELLIGERENT ACTS OSTensibly COMMITTED IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE WHO ELECT THE DAIL MEMBERS.

FINALLY, BY ARTICLE 15 THE SOLE RIGHT TO RAISE AND MAINTAIN AN ARMED FORCE IS VESTED IN THE OIREACHTAS, OF WHICH THE DAIL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENT: AND THE ARTICLE STATES THAT "NO ARMED FORCE OTHER THAN ONE RAISED BY THE OIREACHTAS SHALL BE RAISED OR MAINTAINED FOR ANY PURPOSE WHATSOEVER." WHEN THE GROUPS NOW SANCTIMONIOUSLY DEMANDING AN EARLY DAIL RECALL SHOW WILLINGNESS TO RESPECT THIS CLEAR AND DEFINITE LAW, THEY MAY PERHAPS EXPECT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY: BUT NOT BEFORE.

ENDS.

FIICG.
CONFIDENTIAL

FM DUBLIN 1216222 AUG 1981

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 291 OF 12 AUGUST

AND TO IMMEDIATE N I O (BELFAST) AND PRIORITY WASHINGTON

MY TELNOS 288 AND 292 IRISH GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE NORTH
FROM TATHAM.

1. AFTER MR O'LEARY'S UNHELPFUL STATEMENT OF 9 AUGUST AND MR
JOHN KELLY'S STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE I R A YESTERDAY,
THE IRISH CABINET MET THIS MORNING TO CONSIDER POLICY TOWARDS
THE NORTH, FROM WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DISCOVER (AND MANY OF
OUR NORMAL SENIOR OFFICIAL CONTACTS ARE ON LEAVE), IT WAS DECIDED

(1) THAT ANY FUTURE STATEMENTS ON NORTHERN IRELAND BY GOVERNMENT
MINISTERS WOULD BE CLEARED WITH THE TAOISEACH FIRST,

(11) A MEETING TO REVIEW POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD BE
HELD ON 24 AND 25 AUGUST, AND OFFICIALS AND MINISTERS HAVE
ALREADY BEEN TOLD TO RETURN FROM LEAVE.

2. THIS IS REASONABLY SATISFACTORY. IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY
IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE TAOISEACH TO SLAP DOWN HIS SENIOR
COALITION PARTNERS PUBLICLY, BUT HE HAS AT LEAST RESTRAINED
MR O'LEARY. MR KELLY'S ALLUSION ON THE B B C TODAY TO
"THE POSSIBLY UNCONSIDERED REMARKS OF A MINISTER WHO DOES
NOT HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NORTH" IS ALSO AN OBLIQUE
DISAVOWAL, BUT WE CANNOT RULE OUT FURTHER LABOUR STATEMENTS;
THE HUNGER STRIKE IS BECOMING THE MAIN POLITICAL ISSUE HERE AND
THE PARTY WILL WISH TO PRONOUNCE ON IT, JUST AS, DURING THE
LAST COALITION, CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN HELD FORTH ON NORTHERN
ISSUES TO THE IRRITATION OF HIS FINE GAEL PARTNERS.

3. IT IS GOOD TOO THAT TALK OF THE "DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE",
WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE ORIGINATED FROM MR O'LEARY'S STATEMENT
(AND POSSIBLY HIS SUBSEQUENT BRIEFING TO THE IRISH PAPERS)
HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN UP BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD NEVER RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO PURSUE THIS

IDEA.
4. THE MEETING ON 24 AND 25 AUGUST SHOULD IMPOSE SOME COHERENCE ON IRISH POLICY TOWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE HUNGER STRIKE. AS SEEN FROM HERE, THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE IN ARRANGING FULL AND FRANK BRIEFING PARTICULARLY ON THE HUNGER STRIKE JUST BEFORE THE IRISH MEET, SAY THE DAY AFTER THE FERMANAGH BY-ELECTION, I.E. FRIDAY 21 AUGUST. THIS COULD BEST BE DONE AT SENIOR OFFICIAL OR EVEN JUNIOR MINISTERIAL LEVEL, DEPENDING ON WHO IS AVAILABLE IN DUBLIN. ALTERNATIVELY, THE IRISH MIGHT BE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO BELFAST FOR BRIEFING THERE."
H BLOCKS:
STATEMENT BY ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT A FINE GAEL PARTY FUNCTION.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE BY THE ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR JOHN KELLY, ON 11 AUGUST.

BEGINNS

A NEW FEATURE IN THE NORTHERN TROUBLES IS THAT THE DUBLIN GOVERNMENT IS BEING CALLED ON DAILY, BY SOMEONE OR OTHER IN WHAT MAY ROUGHLY BE CALLED THE I.R.A. CAMP, TO EXERT PRESSURE IN A DIRECTION WHICH SUITS THAT CAMP'S PURPOSES.

IT IS TIME THAT A FEW PLAIN WORDS WERE SPOKEN ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT ALL POSSIBILITY OF MISUNDERSTANDING WAS REMOVED.

THE REASON WHY WE HAVE URGED UPON THE BRITISH THE NEED TO SETTLE THE H BLOCK SITUATION QUICKLY IS THAT WE SEE IT AS OBSTRUCTING AND DELAYING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT AND RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH AND BETWEEN THEM AND OURSELVES. WE HAVE EXPRESSED DISAPPROVAL THAT OUR URGENT WORDS TO LONDON HAVE NOT HAD A BETTER RESPONSE, BUT WHAT IS TO BE SAID OF THE STANCE OF THE I.R.A.?

THEY AND THEIR SATELLITES TRY TO HANGARCE THIS GOVERNMENT INTO ATTITUDES AND GESTURES WHICH THEY THINK WILL ADVANCE THEIR AIDS. THE REASON THEY TAKE THIS TROUBLE WITH THE GOVERNMENT IS THAT THEY KNOW IT IS RECOGNISED AND SEEN, IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AS THE LAWFUL GOVERNMENT OF THIS STATE, AND ITS TAOISEACH AS THE GOVERNMENT'S LAWFUL LEADER. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WISH TO EXPLOIT FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES THE LEGITIMACY OF THE DUBLIN ADMINISTRATION, WHOSE ACTS AND GESTURES WILL COMMAND ABROAD A RESPECT WHICH NO OTHER BODY IN THE COUNTRY CAN COMMAND.

BUT WHEN THAT SAME GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS THEIR VIOLENCE, THEIR CRUDE CONTEMPT FOR HUMAN LIFE, THEIR RUTHLESS INDIFFERENCE TO THE WISHES OF MOST IRISH PEOPLE, SUDDENLY THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGITIMACY COUNTS FOR NOTHING, AND ITS AUTHORITY IS THE SUBJECT OF INSULT.

PEOPLE CANNOT HAVE THE AMENITIES OF CIVILISATION, OF WHICH ORDERED GOVERNMENT IS THE GREATEST, ON TERMS LIKE THESE.
THIS GOVERNMENT SAYS TO THE I.R.A. CALL OFF YOUR CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE; CEASE THE SHOOTING AND THE BOMBING AND THE INTIMIDATION; HALT THE WICKED CRUELITIES THAT HAVE SHAMED AND DISGRACED THE NAME OF IRELAND AND ITS FLAG.

WHEN THAT CALL IS HEEDED, AT LEAST IT WILL BECOME LOGICAL TO INVOLVE THE DIPLOMATIC AID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND IN PURSUIT OF A COMPASSIONATE END. BUT AS LONG AS IT GOES UNHEEDED, THE ATTEMPTED EXPLOITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGITIMACY WILL REMAIN JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF HYPOCRISY.

ENDS.

FIGG.