

NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES

*Ireland*

PS  
PS/SIR I GILMOUR  
PS/PUS  
MR FERGUSSON  
*Lord N Gordon-Lennox*  
HD/RID  
PUSD (2)  
HD/IPD  
HD/OID (2)  
NEWS DEPT

N IRELAND OFFICE - PS TO SEC OF STATE  
RM 66 A/2 GGS

N IRELAND OFFICE [4 copies]

SIR B CUBBON

MR JAMES

MR MARSHALL

MR W J A INNES

CABINET OFFICE - SIR J HUNT

*Mr R Wade-Gery*

DIO

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

(X21)

*Files*

GRPS 430

CONFIDENTIAL

FM DUBLIN 261210Z SEPTEMBER 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 310 OF 26 SEPTEMBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST

YOUR TELNO 148 SECURITY COOPERATION

*Pemie Minister*

*This sounds more encouraging:  
there have been some signs of Irish  
backsliding in earlier meetings.*

*Paul*

1. I SPOKE ON THE LINES OF YOUR TUR THIS MORNING TO O'ROURKE AND NELIGAN WHO WERE RECEPTIVE. I EMPHASISED ESPECIALLY THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT WHEN MINISTERS MET ON 5 OCTOBER THERE SHOULD BE POSITIVE, SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS AND WE SAW THE MEETING OF OFFICIALS TOMORROW AS ESSENTIAL ALSO IN PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE MINISTERS.

2. ON PARA 1(A) AND (B) OF YOUR TUR, THE IRISH SAID THAT THEY SAW THE OFFICIALS MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY, TO DISCUSS THE MERITS, DIFFICULTIES, FEASIBILITY AND PRACTICALITY OF THE IDEAS PUT FORWARD AT THE NO 10 DOWNING STREET MEETING. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION, O'ROURKE SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT THE IRISH SIDE WOULD BE THERE JUST TO LISTEN. NELIGAN COMMENTED THAT THE OFFICIALS' REMIT IS, HOWEVER, NOT TO PREJUDICE THE SUBSTANTIVE ATTITUDE TO BE TAKEN BY MINISTERS AND TO STEER CLEAR OF ADOPTING A "NATIONAL POSITION".

I SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO DISCUSS THE ITEMS LISTED IN OUR AIDE MEMOIRE, OF 7 SEPTEMBER, (YOUR TELNO 121) AND THE IRISH AGREED THAT ALL THE POINTS COVERED THEREIN WOULD BE DISCUSSED TOMORROW. O'ROURKE SAID THAT THE AIDE MEMOIRE HAD BEEN THE BASIS ON WHICH MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS HAD STUDIED THE OUTCOME OF THE NO 10 MEETING.

3. ON PARA 1(C) OF YOUR TUR, O'ROURKE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A DEGREE OF CONFIDENTIALITY ABOUT THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AND STRESSED THAT IT WAS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE MEASURES RATHER THAN THEIR PRESENTATION WHICH WAS REALLY IMPORTANT. WHEN I PRESSED HIM ABOUT THIS, HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO MENTION TO THE PRESS, AFTER THE 5 OCTOBER MEETING, SOME OF THE MEASURES WHILE IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE NOT TO REFER TO OTHERS. HE AGREED THAT IF WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT IRISH ATTITUDES WERE TO THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR OFFICIALS TO WORK OUT SOME KIND OF LINE, AND HE FURTHER AGREED THAT THAT SUBJECT SHOULD BE FULLY DISCUSSED TOMORROW.

4. ON PARA 1(D) O'ROURKE SAID HE TOOK MY POINT COMPLETELY AND WOULD ENSURE THAT HIS MINISTER WAS SUITABLY BRIEFED.

5. O'ROURKE, IN THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION, SAID HE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DISCUSS HELICOPTER OVERFLIGHTS AT SOME LENGTH TOMORROW AND NELIGAN SAID THAT THERE WAS ONE SUGGESTION FOR IMPROVEMENTS ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE BORDER WHICH WOULD BE MENTIONED AT THAT MEETING.

6. WE ARE, AS YOU KNOW, AT PRESENT DISCUSSING WITH THE IRISH THE TIMING OF TOMORROW'S MEETING AND MEANWHILE THEY HAVE TOLD US THAT ON THEIR SIDE THEY EXPECTED THE DELEGATION TO BE LED BY DONNELLY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER OFFICIAL FROM THAT DEPARTMENT, AND NELIGAN AND SWIFT OF THE DFA PLUS KIRWAN OF THE TAOISEACH'S DEPARTMENT WOULD BE PRESENT.

7. WE SHALL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS WE CAN ABOUT TIMING AND ANY CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE IRISH DELEGATION.

HAYDON

NNNN

SENT AT 26/1315Z JAW