

30

IMMEDIATE

PS (6)
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MS WHITNEY

PS/S. C. S
PS/ MR. R. ANDREW
OAB 1/56

PS/PCS

MS SPINLEY

~~MS J. BROWN~~

MS ANGL

MS JENKINS

J. LYON
~~MS BATES SMITH~~



ED/RID

SIR E ARMSTRONG

ED/FOED (2)

DIO

ED INFO D

ED/NEWS D

PS/No 10 DOWNING STREET (3)

CONFIDENTIAL

FM DUBLIN D11155Z SEPT 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 427 OF 1 SEPTEMBER 1984
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO (BELFAST) NIO (LONDON)

VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND TO DUBLIN
ON 31 AUGUST

SUMMARY

1. DURING A VERY CORDIAL EVENING MR PRIOR ATTEMPTED TO MAKE IRISH MINISTERS' EXPECTATIONS FROM HMG MORE REALISTIC.

DETAIL

2. IN A NOTABLY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, THE TAOISEACH AND THE IRISH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPENT NEARLY THE WHOLE OF A FOUR HOUR MEETING OVER DINNER ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. MR PRIOR GAVE A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE CONTACTS HE HAD HAD WITH THE LEADERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTIES IN THE NORTH. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THESE HAD NOT GOT VERY FAR AND THAT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE RESULTS OF INTER-PARTY TALKS. HE STRESSED THAT THE PRINCIPAL AIM OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS TO FIND A WAY IN WHICH THE MINORITY COMMUNITY COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH DECISION MAKING IN THE NORTH. HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS OF 1974 COULD BE REPEATED, AND AT ONE POINT HE REJECTED THE IDEA OF A NOMINATED EXECUTIVE DRAWN FROM THE PARTIES. THE IRISH SIDE PUT FORWARD NO CLEAR IDEAS ON THIS TOPIC AND WENT LITTLE FURTHER THAN REPEATING THE SLOGAN OF POWER SHARING. THERE WAS RATHER A SHARP

