

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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CODED MESSAGE

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IMMEDIATE

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON  
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7 12/78

JOHN HUME HAD PRIVATE TALKS WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL AND SENATOR KENNEDY DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS AND WILL MEET WITH KENNEDY AND POSSIBLE O'NEILL AGAIN OVER THE WEEKEND.

I HAD A LENGTHY TALK LAST WEEK WITH SENATOR KENNEDY'S CHIEF OF STAFF PARKER WHO WAS JOINED FOR ABOUT 5 MINUTES BY THE SENATOR. I ALSO MET WITH CHARLES FERRIS AN ADVISER TO SPEAKER O'NEILL ON NORTHERN IRELAND.

X I REPORTED IN OUR C9 ON STATE DEPARTMENT THINKING FOLLOWING REPORTS HERE OF THE TAOISEACH'S RTE INTERVIEW.

O'NEILL IS PERSONALLY SOMEWHAT IRRITATED AT A RELATIVELY EFFECTIVE WRITE-IN AND PHONE-IN CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS PROTESTING HIS SUPPRESSION OF HEARINGS ON NORTHERN IRELAND IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR WHEN HE OVERRULED CONGRESSMAN DONALD FRASER, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS WHO, TOGETHER WITH CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHAL, WAS PRESSING FOR HEARINGS. SUCH WAS O'NEILL'S IRRITATION WITH THIS CAMPAIGN WHICH WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE PARTISAN REPUBLICAN BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN, THAT HE CHANGED HIS DECISION TO BE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE FORTHCOMING IRELAND FUND ANNUAL DINNER ON MAY 10. HE SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED HIS MIND AGAIN AND HE HAS NOW COMMITTED HIMSELF TO THE EVENT.

BEFORE O'NEILL AND HUME WENT INTO PRIVATE SESSION, O'NEILL REMARKED JOCOSELY TO SOME OTHERS PRESENT THAT "THIS GUY HAS GOTTEN ME INTO A LOT OF TROUBLE".

DURING THEIR PRIVATE TALKS, O'NEILL EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE PIAGGI AD-HOC COMMITTEE HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY SCUTTLED BY HUME'S MEETING WITH THEM (NOTE: IT WILL APPEAR LATER THAT THIS IS NOT KENNEDY'S ASSESSMENT.). O'NEILL ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH THE DETAIL OF POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND BUT, BY-AND-LARGE, WILL BE HAPPY TO BE GUIDED BY HUME AS TO THE LINE HE SHOULD TAKE.



I MET OVER THE PAST WEEK WITH MR CHARLES FERRIS, RECENTLY APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE US FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, WHO WAS UNTIL RECENTLY LEGAL COUNSEL TO SPEAKER O'NEILL AND WHO CONTINUES TO ADVISE THE SPEAKER ON NORTHERN IRELAND POLICY. FERRIS FOLLOWS DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND A GOOD DEAL MORE CLOSELY THAN O'NEILL AND INDEED IT WAS HE WHO BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION THE FACT THAT THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS HAD BEEN REPRESENTING THEMSELVES ON CAPITOL HILL AS SUPPORTING ESSENTIALLY THE POLICY OF THE FIANNA FAIL PARTY. FERRIS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AT AMERICAN REPORTING OF THE TAOISEACH'S REMARKS WHICH HE SAW AS UNDERMINING HIS OWN EFFORTS TO WEAKEN SUPPORT FOR THE CAUCUS IN THE CONGRESS.

KENNEDY, IN HIS REMARKS TO HUME, APPARENTLY STATED THAT HE FELT THAT THE REPORT OF THE TAOISEACH'S STATEMENT TOGETHER WITH THE CAUCUS' REACTION TO IT HAD WEAKENED THE POSITION OF THE KENNEDY, O'NEILL, MOYNIHAN, CAREY QUARTET WHO HAD GONE OUT ON SOMETHING OF A LIMB, IN IRISH-AMERICAN TERMS, IN TAKING THE LINE THAT THE PROBLEM IN NORTHERN IRELAND WAS ESSENTIALLY BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES RATHER THAN BECAUSE OF THE BRITISH PRESENCE WHILE REJECTING THE "BRITS OUT" POLICY OF THE CAUCUS AND THEIR CONGRESSIONAL ALLIES. (SEE SENATOR KENNEDY'S SPEECH FOR THE IRELAND FUND DINNER IN MAY LAST YEAR AND CAREY'S COLLEGE OF SURGEONS SPEECH WHICH WERE WRITTEN LARGELY IN CONSULTATION WITH IRISH OFFICIALS.) KENNEDY FELT THAT THE IMPACT OF THE TAOISEACH'S REMARKS TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE SPEECH OF ARCHBISHOP O'FIACH AS WELL AS THE CAUCUS AND REPORTED UNIONIST AND BRITISH REACTIONS TO THEM, HAD EFFECTIVELY LEFT KENNEDY AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN A RATHER ISOLATED POSITION IN TERMS OF MODERATE IRISH NATIONALIST POLICY. APPARENTLY, HE ASKED HUME TO SUGGEST THAT THE TAOISEACH CONSIDER STATING PUBLICLY THAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE POSITION OF KENNEDY AND HIS PARTNERS IN CALLING FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE AND AN END FOR AMERICAN SUPPORT TO VIOLENCE, AND MOREOVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT DISSOCIATES ITSELF PUBLICLY FROM THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS.

HUME INDICATED THAT KENNEDY HAD EXPRESSED A WISH TO ISSUE WITH HIS COLLEAGUES A FURTHER STATEMENT THIS COMING ST PATRICK'S DAY BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT FAVOUR A STATEMENT WHICH WOULD INVOLVE HIM AND OR HIS COLLEAGUES IN WHAT HE SEES AS THE CURRENT PUBLIC DISPUTE ON POLICY BETWEEN THE IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS AND THE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

KENNEDY, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, TAKES A CLOSE AND PERSISTENT INTEREST IN NORTHERN IRELAND DEVELOPMENTS. WHILE HE HAD BEEN ABSENT IN CHINA AT THE TIME OF THE TAOISEACH'S RTE INTERVIEW, IT WAS CLEAR TO ME LAST WEEK THAT HE HAD BRIEFED HIMSELF VERY FULLY ON DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING HIS RETURN. HIS AIDE PARKER SAID TO ME THAT THE SENATOR WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION AS REPORTED HERE WHICH HE SAW AS STRENGTHENING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS AND THE DIAGGI AD-HOC COMMITTEE WHICH IS, OF COURSE, A CREATION OF THE CAUCUS. I HAVE REPORTED EARLIER THAT THE CAUCUS HAS EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE STATEMENTS OF THE TAOISEACH AND ARCHBISHOP O'FIACH.



BY WAY OF A FOOTNOTE, I WOULD ADD THAT PARKER MENTIONED TO ME THAT THE SENATOR, HAVING BY WAY OF VARIOUS STATEMENTS AND INITIATIVES, SLOUGHED OFF HIS IMAGE IN IRELAND WHICH DATES TO 1971 OF BEING SYMPATHETIC TO VIOLENCE HAS BEEN TRYING TO ACHIEVE A SITUATION WHEREBY HE COULD HAVE A DIALOGUE WITH BOTH SIDES IN NORTHERN IRELAND I.E. NATIONALISTS AND UNIONISTS, WHILE PRIVATELY LARGELY FOLLOWING THE ADVICE OF MR HUME.

HUME STATED TO ME THAT HE FEELS THERE IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM OR OF PERCEPTION ON CAPITOL HILL AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE HITHERTO BEING VERY FRIENDLY TOWARDS US AND WHO LARGELY FOLLOW THE POLICY LEAD OF SENATOR KENNEDY. HE STATED THAT HE PROPOSES TO RAISE THIS MATTER GENERALLY WITH THE TAOISEACH ON HIS RETURN TO IRELAND EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE ADDED THAT AT THE TIME HE SPOKE TO THEM NEITHER O'NEILL NOR KENNEDY WERE AWARE OF THE REPORTS OF REACTIONS TO THE MINISTER'S SUNDAY INDEPENDENT INTERVIEW AND THAT HE HUME HAD NOT RAISED THIS MATTER WITH THEM. NOTE: NEITHER HAS THE EMBASSY DONE SO AND IN FACT THIS PARTICULAR DEVELOPMENT HAS NOT SO FAR FEATURED IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA OUTSIDE THE IRISH-AMERICAN WEEKLIES. I GATHER THAT HUME PROPOSES TO DRAFT A STATEMENT FOR THE TAOISEACH'S CONSIDERATION ALONG THE LINE SUGGESTED BY SENATOR KENNEDY.

ON JANUARY 31, HUME WAS PRESENT AT A LUNCHEON IN HONOUR OF COMMISSIONER DURKE HOSTED BY SENATOR EAGLETON AND ATTENDED BY SENATORS SARBANES, HODGES, AND BRIDEN. THIS OCCASION COULD BE CATEGORIZED AS BEING SEMI PUBLIC AND HUME IN FACT MADE A VIGOROUS DEFENCE OF THE TAOISEACH'S RADIO INTERVIEW, ARGUING STRONGLY THAT THE TAOISEACH HAD SAID NOTHING ON THAT OCCASION WHICH HE HAD NOT SAID DURING THE BRIEFING FOLLOWING HIS DOWNING STREET MEETING.

HUME IS IN BOSTON TODAY BUT RETURNS TO WASHINGTON FOR THE WEEKEND. I SHALL, IF I LEARN OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, REPORT ON MONDAY.

END OF MESSAGE  
RESENT 2 FEBRUARY 1978

IS THAT OK ~~YES~~ YES I HAVE ONE FOR U