

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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MR Barry  
2/1  
8/4/30

FOLLOWING IS COPY OF MESSAGE SENT TO WASHINGTON

TO WASHINGTON FROM LONDON  
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM PRESS OFFICE

C.C. SIEV D/FA DUBLIN

MMRLC IN

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

YOUR C231 TO D/FA

CODED MESSAGE	
<del>IMMEDIATE</del>	
C. C. SIEV	
DATE	1008/12
INITIALS	ma

HEREWITH TRANSCRIPT OF TAOISEACH'S BRIEFING TO IRISH JOURNALISTS FOLLOWING DOWNING STREET TALKS. SOME WORDS ON THE TAPE ARE UNCLEAR AND THESE HAVE BEEN MARKED WITH A SERIES OF DOTS.

- Q. IS THERE ANY MENTION IN THE COMMUNIQUE ABOUT THE AGREEMENT TO TERMINATE OR STAMP OUT TERRORISM IN IRELAND..... WILL YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE MEETING
- A. WELL WE DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS PUT FORWARD AS THE COMMUNIQUE INDICATES ON BOTH SIDES. WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD NOT INDICATE WHAT THESE SUGGESTIONS WERE BUT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF THEM FOR OBVIOUS REASONS MAINLY FOR SECURITY REASONS SO I WOULD NOT PROPOSE TO DISCUSS ANY OF THESE SUGGESTIONS OR INDICATE WHAT THEY WERE.
- Q. ....THAT YOU ALREADY INDICATED YOU ARE NOT PREPARED....
- A. I THINK FOR ME TO DISCUSS IN ANY WAY WHAT THE SUGGESTIONS WERE WOULD BE A BREACH OF CONFIDENCE ON MY PART AND I CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE GUILTY OF A BREACH OF CONFIDENCE IN THIS CONTEXT SO I WILL NOT PROPOSE TO DISCUSS ANY DETAILS OR ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.....BECAUSE WE AGREED NOT TO AND IN ANY EVENT BECAUSE OF THE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS I THINK IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DO SO.
- Q. ....CHANGE YOUR MIND.....AFTER THIS MORNING'S DISCUSSIONS IN RELATION TO.....
- A. I HAVE MY VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF MATTERS AND ACTUALLY I WILL BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS OF THAT NATURE IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONVERSATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS TODAY.
- Q. WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT THE SUGGESTIONS ARE NUMBERS OF THEM IN YOUR OPINION WORTHY OF SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OR PERHAPS YOU COULD COMMENT ON ONE MADE BY THE BRITISH?
- A. ALL SUGGESTIONS MADE BY BOTH SIDES ARE WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION AND THATS WHAT WE INTEND TO DO AND THATS WHAT WILL BE DONE BETWEEN NOW AND THE MEETING BETWEEN MINISTERS IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS TIME AND THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVELY PURSUED AT THAT MEETING.



Q. HOW.....WERE THE SUGGESTIONS.....

A. I COULDN'T GIVE AN EXACT BALANCE SHEET OF SUGGESTIONS THAT WERE MADE, THERE WERE QUITE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS THEY CAME, AS I SAID, FROM BOTH SIDES. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO DISCUSS THEM IN ANY DETAIL WHATEVER.

Q. WILL THE MEETING BE BETWEEN MINISTERS FOR JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR.....OR WILL IT BE THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

A. WELL THE NORMAL PROCEDURE THAT WE HAVE IS THAT THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEETS THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND AN ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE ATTENDS THESE MEETINGS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE WILL ATTEND THE FORTHCOMING MEETING AT WHICH THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

Q. WILL THAT MEETING BE IN DUBLIN OR LONDON?

A. THIS MEETING IS LIKELY TO BE IN LONDON BUT NOT IN DUBLIN BECAUSE THE SECRETARY OF STATE CAME TO DUBLIN ON THE LAST OCCASION.

Q. WAS THE POSITION OF THE NON-OPERATION OF THE.....

A. THE FACT THAT THE ACT IS IN EXISTENCE BUT NOT WIDELY AVAILED OF WAS DISCUSSED, BUT AGAIN I AM SAYING THAT TO DISCUSS REASONS WOULD BE TO DISCLOSE DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE HAD TODAY AND THEREFORE I WOULD REGARD THAT AS A BREACH OF CONFIDENCE AS WELL.

Q. CAN YOU SAY THEN THAT THE PARTY IS CHANGING ITS POSITION.... AND THAT IT MIGHT.....

A. I CAN'T SAY, THE ACT IS THERE AND CAPABLE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND AS A MATTER OF FACT IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT IT WILL BE INVOKED WITHIN A SHORT TIME BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY.



Q. IN RELATION TO THE QUESTIONS OF..... YOU HAVE SUGGESTED THAT.....NEW INITIATIVE NOT OF THE NATURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.....

A. IT WAS DISCUSSED, YES, AND I REITERATE WHAT I SAID ON THE PANORAMA INTERVIEW ON BBC LAST MONDAY, REPEATING WHAT HUMPHREY ATKINS SAID ABOUT ANY SOLUTION THAT WOULD BE PUT FORWARD WOULD REQUIRE THE SUPPORT AND CONSENT OF ALL SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS IN THE POPULATION ~~SECTION~~ OF NORTHERN IRELAND I INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A RESERVATION TO PUT IT RATHER VERY MILDLY ON THE PART OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINORITY ABOUT AN ADMINISTRATION LIMITED ONLY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR AN INITIATIVE LIMITED ONLY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT. I MADE THAT PERFECTLY CLEAR AGAIN TODAY.

Q. WAS THERE ANY INDICATIONS ON THE BRITISH SIDE THAT MRS THATCHER MIGHT BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER A MORE BROAD INITIATIVE INVOLVING .....

A. NO, THE EMERGENCE OF THE PROPOSAL IN THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE EMERGED WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

Q. ....

A. WELL, UNFORTUNATELY I HAVENT HAD THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNIQUE BEFORE YOU BUT IT SAYS IT WAS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO SEEK AN ACCEPTABLE WAY OF RESTORING TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND FULL CONTROL OF THEIR OWN AFFAIRS, AND THAT THEY WILL MAKE MOVES TO THAT END AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. SHE WAS NO MORE SPECIFIC AS IS REFERRED TO IN THE COMMUNIQUE. I MIGHT ADD TO THAT THAT I EMPHASISED VERY FORCIBLY THAT ONE CANNOT EXCLUDE A POLITICAL INITIATIVE FROM THE SOLUTION OF CURRENT PROBLEMS THAT THE CAUSE IS IMPORTANT. GETTING TO THE CAUSE AND CLEARING THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS IS MORE IMPORTANT IN MY OPINION THAN DEALING WITH THE EFFECTS ..... AND HORRIFYING AS I HAVE SAID ALREADY THAT THESE WERE.



Q. DID YOU WORK OUT ANY INDICATION .....

A. NO THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF WHAT FORM THESE WOULD TAKE.

Q. TAOISEACH, DO YOU REGARD THIS AS A MATTER OF FACT .....

A. I CAN SAY THAT I REGARDED THE MEETING VERY HELPFUL IN RELATION TO MAKING EACH SIDE CLEAR AT THE PRESENT TIME. I AM HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN TIME. I EMPHASISE THAT THERE WAS URGENCY IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM OF IRELAND IN PUTTING FORWARD POLITICAL CONDITIONS.

Q. ARE YOU HAPPY THAT THE BRITISH .....

A. THAT SITUATION HAS NEVER CHANGED, THAT WAS ESTABLISHED DURING MY TALKS WITH MR HEATH IN 1972, THAT WAS WITH MY MEETINGS WITH HIM AT CHEQUERS IT WAS FOLLOWED THROUGH BY THE SUCCEEDING GOVERNMENT, THE COALITION GOVERNMENT RIGHT UP TO SUNNINGDALE. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED THAT SITUATION HASNT CHANGED.

Q..... STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT THE AFFAIRS OF NORTHERN IRELAND .....UNITED KINGDOM.....

A. IT HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO US THAT OUR INVOLVEMENT - OUR RIGHT TO BE INVOLVED - THAT BRITISH POLICY IN THAT RESPECT HAS NOT CHANGED ATALL. SO THERE WAS NO NEED TO REFER TO THAT TODAY WE DIDNT REFER TO IT SPECIFICALLY IT DIDNT APPLY IN OUR OPINION BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT SITUATION IS AS IT WAS EVER SINCE 1972.

Q. ....THESE TALKS IN THE LIGHT OF LAST WEEK WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE IRISH AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS ARE .....

A. WELL THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE COURSE OF OUR TALKS TODAY AT ANY STAGE OR AT ANY LEVEL AND THERE WERE SEPARATE TALKS BETWEEN APPROPRIATE, THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HIS COUNTERPART, ....., BETWEEN THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND HIS COUNTERPART, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, NOTHING WHATEVER TO INDICATE AND I AM PERFECTLY SATISFIED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE STANDARDS AND LEVEL AND CORDIALITY OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.



Q. TAOISEACH, THERE HAS BEEN A FAIR AMOUNT OF IMMEDIATE SPECULATION, THERE HAS BEEN A KIND A EMPHASIS OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND AND I WAS WONDERING IF YOU AT ANY STAGE FOR EXAMPLE MENTIONED YOUR PREVIOUS APPEALS FOR BRITISH ENCOURAGEMENT.....

A. I CONTEMPLATED ON EMPHASISING THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL INITIATIVE TOWARDS ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONS IN THE NORTH THAT WOULD EARN THE SUPPORT AND CONSENT OF BOTH COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT AT THE PRESENT TIME.

Q. WAS THERE ANY SUGGESTION TO SUPPORT THE VARIOUS ENGLISH NEWSPAPER STORIES THAT SHOW CRITICISM OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT.....

A. NO THERE WAS NONE WHATEVER. ON THE CONTRARY THERE WAS FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION, FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE FACT THAT WE WERE DETERMINED AS THEY ARE TO WIPE OUT TERRORISM, THEY WE ARE TAKING STEPS AS WELL AS WE CAN BUT BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION ESPECIALLY OF THE EVENTS OF LAST MONDAY, IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT. THERE IS ALWAYS NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN ANY HUMAN SET UP AND I AM SATISFIED..... WE ARE NOW EXAMINING WAYS WHEREBY THAT COOPERATION AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF IT CAN BE IMPROVED.

Q. IS THIS A DEMONSTRATION OF .....

A. AS I SAID VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS THAT WERE MADE TODAY ON BOTH SIDES WILL BE EXAMINED BETWEEN NOW AND THREE WEEKS TIME. TO WHAT EXTENT THESE SUGGESTIONS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED, WILL I SUGGEST - WHAT WILL PROBABLY EMERGE AT THE MEETING IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS TIME AND THE EXTENT THAT THEY CAN BE IMPLEMENTED THEY CERTAINLY WILL BE.

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Q. ....THE SECURITY ASPECT .....

A. THE FIRST PART OF THE MEETING - FIRST OF ALL WE DISCUSSED SECURITY GENERALLY, NOT SO MUCH SECURITY BUT WE DISCUSSED TERRORISM IN THIS GENERAL CONTEXT. TERRORISM IS A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE DISCUSSED TERRORISM IN ITS PARTICULAR CONTEXT AS FAR AS THE UK AND IRELAND ARE CONCERNED. WE DISCUSSED THEN, OF COURSE, IN SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL, SECURITY AS FAR AS OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED. THE WORKING LUNCH WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO EEC AND RELATED MATTERS AND THAT WAS FOLLOWED UP BY THE MINISTERS CONCERNED PURSUING THE POINTS THAT WERE MADE DURING THE COURSE OF THE LUNCH. SO IF ONE COULD ATTRIBUTE THE TOTAL TIME TO THE DIFFERENT TOPICS IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO STATE WHICH CONSUMED MORE TIME.

Q. WAS THERE ANY INDICATION OF WHETHER ..... MIGHT CONSIDER JOINING THE EMS.

A. WE DISCUSSED THAT AND I THINK IT IS VERY OBVIOUS NOW THAT THEY WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A DECISION ON THAT THIS MONTH AS THEY HOPED THEY WOULD AND CERTAINLY IT WILL NOT BE MADE BEFORE, AND NOT NECESSARILY DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. THATS NOT SETTLED YET AND WILL DEPEND, OF COURSE, ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE POUND, THE POUND AS EURO CURRENCY AND THE IMPACT OF THE DOLLAR AND OTHER MONETARY MATTERS OF THAT NATURE.

Q. WAS IT JUST TO HAVE THEIR.....INCREASED.

A. THE EMS IS TO BE REVIEWED IN 6 MONTHS. THAT REVIEW WHICH WAS THOUGHT WOULD BE COMPLETE IN SEPTEMBER WONT BE AND THATS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THEY CANT MAKE ANY DECISIONS. AND THATS DUE OF COURSE TO SOME EXTENT TO THE FACT THAT THERE WAS A STRIKE AMONG THE OFFICIALS OF THE COMMUNITY.

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Q. I THINK IT WOULD BE FA'IR TO SAY, TAOISEACH, THAT WHILE THE BRITISH SIDE EXPLAINED THEIR THINKING ON THE SUBJECT AND THE FACTORS THAT WOULD GO INTO MAKING THEIR DECISION, THEY ARE NOT IN A POSITION AT THE MOMENT TO SAY WHEN THEY ARE LIKELY TO MAKE THE DECISION EXCEPT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THIS REVIEW.

A. ....