

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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... re P.M. Thatcher speech of 25 May 1981

1. No recognition of the damage being done - in the way of IRA recruitment. Sympathy for the cause among the Catholic population - 70,000 at Sands funeral - and in the middle of an election here, where this sort of hardline attitude only creates support for the H-Block sympathisers.
2. The more fundamental lack of appreciation of where the fault and its remedy lie. The short-term answer may be in a humanitarian prison regime, security and law and order measures; but in the longer term, the answer can only come from a recognition of the cause of the trouble, and policies to remove that cause.
3. From certain contacts, we get the impression that the H-Blockers may be looking for a way out. If they are, a solution is not being made any more easy - and may in fact be put further off - by the repetition of the line in the speech.

27<sup>th</sup> May, 1981.

1. Mr Byrne
  2. Mr ...
- Note prepared by D. Nally as possible (official-level) response to Mrs. T's Belfast address 28/7/81

Mr

Mr. Nally  
For file on British Govt Wipkin  
Mr 3/6