

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



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C285
TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR PSM FROM AMBASSADOR

2/10/31

10/30

B/M

AMBASSADOR

MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

YOU MAY WISH TO COPY THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND TO MESSRS MACKERNAN, NELIGAN AND RIGNEY. IF THE MINISTER AGREES A COPY MIGHT ALSO GO TO LILLIS. DETAILED REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS MEETINGS ARE BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE FORWARDED BY POST WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A REPORT ON THE MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE CLARK WHICH IS BEING TELEXED.

2. 5 OCTOBER

BRIEFING AND EMBASSY STAFF MEETING.

WORKING LUNCH WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE CLARK:

THERE WAS A WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION ON NORTHERN IRELAND AND A POSSIBLE US ROLE. CLARK CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD VISIT IRELAND PROBABLY EARLY IN DECEMBER. HIS VISIT WOULD BE LOW KEY AND ITS OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO ENABLE HIM TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF FINDING HOW THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BEST HELP US. OTHER ACTIVITIES WOULD BE ARRANGED FOR HIM IN EUROPE TO PROVIDE A PLAUSIBLE COVER FOR THE TRIP. THE PROCESS MIGHT BE CONTINUED AT A LATER STAGE BY ARRANGING A VISIT TO WASHINGTON FOR THE TAOISEACH. CLARK ALSO AGREED THAT A DRAFT PARAGRAPH WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT INCLUDE IN HIS SPEECH MIGHT BE SENT TO HIM DISCREETLY FOR CONSIDERATION. THE PRESIDENT IS MAKING A SPEECH AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE AMERICAN IRISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN NEW YORK ON 6 NOVEMBER. CLARK ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT OF A US AMBASSADOR TO DUBLIN. NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE AND NONE WAS LIKELY TO BE MADE FOR ANOTHER MONTH. WE SHOULD IGNORE NEWSPAPER SPECULATION WHICH SEEM TO DERIVE FROM VARIOUS PEOPLE PUSHING THEIR OWN CANDIDACIES

MEETING WITH SENATOR KENNEDY WHO ASKED, INTER ALIA, ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE ENDING OF THE HUNGER STRIKE, THE CHANGE OF NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE, BRITISH LABOUR PARTY SUPPORT FOR IRISH UNITY AND PROSPECTS FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE COMING MONTHS. KENNEDY DID MOST OF THE LISTENING BUT APPEARED MORE RELAXED AND INTERESTED THAN HE HAS BEEN AT MEETINGS WITH OTHER IRISH VISITORS.

MEETING WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL WHO ASKED ABOUT THE IRISH ECONOMY, THE GOVERNMENT'S PROSPECTS FOR SURVIVAL AND THE IMPLICATION OF THE ENDING OF THE HUNGER STRIKE. HE LISTENED WITH THE FASCINATION OF A PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN TO THE MINISTER'S EXPLANATION OF IRISH SENATE ELECTIONS. HE TOLD HIS USUAL STORIES ABOUT HIS DONEGAL AND CORK CONNECTIONS AND WE THEN DRIFTED INTO DISCUSSION OF MASSACHUSETTS AND US POLITICS GENERALLY. HIS SON, TOMMY, HAS JUST DECLARED FOR GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS AND THE SPEAKER IS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN. IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSING THE FINANCING OF CAMPAIGNS HE REVEALED INCIDENTALLY THAT HE HAD CONTRIBUTED 100 DOLLARS TO THE TAOISEACH'S CAMPAIGN FUND AND HE EXPRESSED GREAT AFFECTION AND ADMIRATION FOR HIM.

DINNER WITH JOURNALISTS MARY MCGRORY (SYNDICATED COLUMNIST), STEPHEN ROSENFELD (WASHINGTON POST FOREIGN EDITOR), RAY COFFEY (CHICAGO TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF), MONSIGNOR BOLAND (CORK BORN ADVISER TO ARCHBISHOP HICKEY OF WASHINGTON DC) AND, LATE ARRIVALS, TOM FOLEY (DEMOCRATIC WHIP) AND JIM SHANNON (DEMOCRAT, MASSACHUSETTS) WHO WERE DELAYED BY AN UNEXPECTEDLY LATE SITTING OF THE HOUSE.

3. 6 OCTOBER

BREAKFAST WITH HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY ZABLOCKI ATTENDED BY EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND A NUMBER OF AIDES. THE DISCUSSION WAS MAINLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY CONCERNED WITH NORTHERN IRELAND MATTERS WITH ONE MEMBER (JONATHAN BINGHAM, NEW YORK) GENTLY PRESSING FOR HEARINGS. OUR REPLIES TOOK THE USUAL LINES DISCOURAGING SUCH HEARINGS AND ZABLOCKI HIMSELF CLEARLY INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT HEARINGS

MEETING WITH THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND - IT WAS BY FAR THE LARGEST MEETING SO FAR WITH FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE, ONE SENATOR AND THE USUAL GROUP OF AIDES. THE HUNGER STRIKE, THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND SITUATION, THE USE OF PLASTIC BULLETS, THE ATTITUDE OF THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY TO NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE POSSIBLE VISIT TO DUBLIN BY A DELEGATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND WERE AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED. FOLLOWING THE MEETING THE MINISTER JOINED CONGRESSMEN SHANNON AND DOUGHERTY IN DOING INTERVIEWS FOR BOSTON AND PHILADELPHIA PAPERS.

LUNCH WITH ARCHBISHOP HICKEY TO ENABLE MINISTER TO MEET BISHOP CASEY AND BRIAN MCKEOWN WHO WERE IN TOWN FOR A DISCUSSION ON EL SALVADOR WITH ARCHBISHOP HICKEY AND STAFF OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS. IN A BRIEF PRE-LUNCH MEETING BISHOP CASEY INDICATED THAT HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DORR THE PREVIOUS DAY HAD REMOVED MOST OF THE MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN THE MINISTER AND HIMSELF ON MATTERS RELATING TO EL SALVADOR. HIS MAIN GRIEVANCE NOW SEEMED TO BE THAT HE WAS NOT CONSULTED BY THE MINISTER.

TO BE

THAT HE WAS NOT CONSULTED BY THE MINISTER ON THE EL SALVADOR SECTION BEFORE THE UN SPEECH WAS FINALISED. HE DOES, HOWEVER, WISH TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE MINISTER IN DUBLIN AT A LATER STAGE BUT THE MINISTER GAVE HIM NO COMMITMENT ON THAT POINT. THE MINISTER AVAILED OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO ARCHBISHOP HICKEY ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND AND EL SALVADOR.

4. FOR FOLLOW UP:

- (A) DRAFT PARAGRAPH FOR POSSIBLE USE BY PRESIDENT REAGAN WILL BE SUBMITTED SHORTLY FOR CLEARANCE BY MINISTER:
- (B) ARCHBISHOP HICKEY'S TESTIMONY TO CONGRESS ON EL SALVADOR WILL BE FORWARDED BY US AS REQUESTED BY THE MINISTER:
- (C) RIGNEY TO SUBMIT TO MINISTER FIGURES RELATING TO POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF SOME OFFICES ABROAD. MATTER AROSE DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER ON 1982 ESTIMATES:
- (D) MINISTER TO TALK TO TAOISEACH ABOUT DEPARTMENTAL MOVES ARISING OUT OF THE FILLING OF THE VACANCY IN BERNE. HE MAY THEN WISH TO TELEPHONE ME SO THAT I CAN INITIATE THE NECESSARY STEPS.

END OF MESSAGE

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