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TO HQ FROM EEC BRUSSELS
FOR MISS M HENNESSY FROM J DILLON

(COMM CEN: PLEASE COPY TO MR. E. RYAN AND MR. J. BIGGAR)

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MMTREWQ
MEETING OF 24/1/1983 BETWEEN MINISTER BARRY AND MINISTER PYM

MINISTER BARRY OPENED THE MEETING BY REFERRING TO THE NECESSITY FOR GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS NOT ONLY BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS BUT ALSO BETWEEN MINISTERS IN VIEW OF THE CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS IN THE PAST AS STEMMING FROM TOO MANY MINISTERS AFTER BILATERAL MEETING EXPRESSING THEIR OWN POINT OF VIEW. MINISTER PYM AGREED IT WAS SENSIBLE TO CREATE A HEALTHY NATURAL RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH BOTH PARTIES COULD RAISE ANY ISSUE THEY WISHED. MINISTER BARRY FELT THAT IT WAS BETTER TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS THAN TO TAKE SHOTS AT EACH OTHER IN THE PRESS. MINISTER PYM EMPHASISED THAT THIS WAS NOT HIS STYLE. HE RECALLED THAT WHEN THE TAOISEACH WAS MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HE, PYM, WAS NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY THAT RELATIONS WERE GOOD AND HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING THE TAOISEACH AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IF NOT SOONER.

ON NORTHERN IRELAND MINISTER PYM SAID THAT THE MOST CRITICAL ISSUE IS THAT OF SECURITY. THE ASSEMBLY WAS THERE AND WOULD REMAIN THERE AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REGRETTED THE SDLP POSITION. HE CONSIDERED THE TAOISEACH WOULD BE HELPFUL IN RESPECT OF SECURITY COOPERATION WHICH WAS ALREADY EXTREMELY GOOD. MR. BARRY AGREED COOPERATION WAS AT A HIGH LEVEL AND REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITIES OFFERED BY THE 1976 CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT. WHEN IN BELFAST LAST WEEK HE NOTICED THAT SECURITY WAS HIGH ON PEOPLE'S MINDS THOUGH THEY COULD OFFER NO SOLUTIONS. AS LONG AS THERE IS A POLITICAL PROBLEM HE SAID THERE WOULD BE A SECURITY PROBLEM. MINISTER PYM REFERRED AGAIN TO THE ASSEMBLY AND SAID THE PROBLEM WAS TO INVOLVE POLITICIANS. HOWEVER, HIS BELIEF WAS THAT NO PROPOSAL WOULD BE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTABLE. THE MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE ASSEMBLY (PYM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD) AND THAT THE POLITICIANS HAVE, UNFORTUNATELY, RUN OUT OF IDEAS AND ARE LOOKING TO DUBLIN AND LONDON. PYM AGREED FULLY WITH THIS AND DESCRIBED THE ASSEMBLY AS A PLACE FOR POLITICIANS TO MEET IF NO MORE THAN THAT. THE MINISTER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT DIFFERED ON SOME ISSUES WITH THE SDLP THEY AGREED WITH THEM ON THE BROAD ISSUES AS THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES NOT ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE OF THE MINORITY. AS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, IT WAS AGREED THAT LITTLE COULD BE DONE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF A PENDING GENERAL ELECTION IN BRITAIN. MINISTER BARRY CLOSED THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION BY REFERRING TO HIS FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH MR PRIOR.

THE MINISTER REFERRED TO A RUMOUR HE HAD HEARD IN BELFAST TO THE EFFECT THAT MISSILES WERE GOING TO BE SITED IN THE NORTH. VERY ENERGETICALLY MINISTER PYM DESCRIBED THE IDEA AS A "MARVELLOUS" RUMOUR AND TOTALLY UNTRUE AND AT THE MINISTER'S REQUEST SAID HE COULD BE QUOTED ON THIS.

MINISTER BARRY INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WERE BRINGING FORWARD LEGISLATION TO GIVE UK CITIZENS IN IRELAND THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN ALL ELECTIONS. HE SAID THIS LEGISLATION WAS ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE DURING THE LAST COALITION BUT HAD BEEN FROZEN IN THE MEANTIME.

AS REGARDS COMMUNITY AFFAIRS PYM EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AFTER 12 YEARS WORK A FISHERIES POLICY WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. MINISTER BARRY AGREED BUT POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE SEEKING SOME CLARIFICATION OF THE LATEST PROPOSALS. MINISTER PYM REFERRED TO THE MORNING'S DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET AND REITERATED THE BRITISH VIEW THAT NO NEW RESOURCES WERE NECESSARY, THAT THE CAP WAS TAKING 70 PER CENT OF THE BUDGET, WHICH WAS WRONG HE SAID, AND THAT PART OF THE REASON FOR THE UK POSITION ON OWN RESOURCES IS THAT THE CAP IS UNIQUELY EXPENSIVE. THE MINISTER RECALLED THAT AT THE COUNCIL HE HAD SAID THAT ENLARGEMENT COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT CONSIDERING AN INCREASE IN OWN RESOURCES. ON THE SHARE OF THE CAP IN THE COMMUNITY BUDGET HE SAID THE BRITISH AND IRISH WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO DIFFER. MINISTER PYM REGRETTED THAT CERTAIN POLICIES SUCH AS SERVICES WITHIN THE INTERNAL MARKET WERE NOT COMING ABOUT AND WHICH WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO THE UK, AND FELT THAT FRG WHICH WAS ALSO CONTRIBUTING HEAVILY TO THE CAP WAS GETTING A RETURN IN SUCH POLICIES. // X

THE MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE ECONOMIC SITUATIONS IN THEIR COUNTRIES AND IN PARTICULAR THE LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT. MINISTER EXPRESSED THE WORRY ABOUT LARGE NUMBERS OF UNDER-25'S BEING UNEMPLOYED AS A POTENTIAL RECRUITMENT FOR ILLEGAL ORGANISATIONS. MINISTER PYM THOUGHT THE REGIONAL POLICY WOULD BE USEFUL IN THIS REGARD.

ON POLITICAL ISSUES MINISTER PYM SPOKE OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE REAGAN PLAN OF WHICH HE IS VERY SUPPORTIVE BUT FEARED THAT IT WOULD NOT GET OFF THE GROUND BECAUSE THE ARABS WERE LOOSING CONFIDENCE IN IT. ISRAEL WAS SIMPLY NOT TAKING IT INTO ACCOUNT. THE ARABS ARE TRYING TO MOVE BUT THEY ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN REACHING AGREEMENT AMONGST THEMSELVES. ON SOUTH AFRICA PYM REFERRED TO THE PROBLEM OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA AND SAID THAT THE AMERICANS WERE DOING THEIR BEST BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BE OPTIMISTIC. OTHER POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH WERE OF CONCERN TO THE BRITISH INCLUDED BELIZE, GUATEMALA, CAMBODIA AND THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. CAMBODIA, HE SAID, WAS TIED IN WITH SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS.

*not.
get price down by [signature]
on agriculture in 1972 & in 1982 ?*

THIS BROUGHT THE MINISTERS TO SPEAK OF ANDROPOV. MINISTER PYM WAS OF THE VIEW THAT ANDROPOV'S STRENGTH DERIVED FROM THE MILITARY BUT THIS MEANT THAT HE WAS ALSO IN THEIR DEBT. MINISTER BARRY COMMENTED THAT MR PYM WAS VERY FORTHCOMING ON THE PRAGUE DECLARATION. MINISTER PYM POINTED OUT THAT HE MADE A REFERENCE TO "PROPAGANDA" WHICH WAS NOT BROADCAST. HIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE SEEN IN LIGHT OF THAT COMMENT. BOTH MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC WERE THE DECLARATIONS FROM MOSCOW THE MORE LIKELY THEY WERE TO BE PROPAGANDA.

MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING MINISTER BARRY SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FORMAL PRESS COMMUNIQUE. THEY AGREED TO SAY THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST MEETING WHICH EVIDENCED A STRONG DESIRE TO ESTABLISH BETTER ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS, THAT DISCUSSED MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTERESTS, COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS E.G. THE NEW SOVIET LEADERSHIP, THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA. ANGLO-IRISH MATTERS WERE ALSO CONSIDERED AND THAT MINISTER BARRY WOULD BE MEETING MR. PRIOR. NORTHERN IRELAND WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY BECAUSE, THOUGH A MATTER FOR MR PRIOR, X MINISTER BARRY WAS ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH THAT NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD NOT AFFECT GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN IRELAND AND BRITAIN.

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THE FOREGOING WAS APPROVED BY THE MINISTER.

24/1/1983

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