

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2014/105/825
Creation Date(s):	22 November 1984
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

URGENT
Abbe Lillis

cc Tavineah
Tavineah
Minter
per Kelly
Mr. Woods
DATE 22/11 1836

C278
22 NOVEMBER 1984
IMMEDIATE
=====

TO HQ
FOR ASST SEC. LILLIS

FROM LONDON
FROM AMBASSADOR (DORR)

/////

CALL ON CABINET SECRETARY WITH LETTER FOR PM

1. I CALLED AS INSTRUCTED ON SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG AT 3 PM AND SPENT AN HOUR WITH HIM. I TRANSMITTED THE LETTER FOR THE PM. I SPOKE ON LINES OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE AND LEFT COPY INFORMALLY WITH HIM. WE ALSO SPOKE INFORMALLY AT SOME LENGTH.
2. HE WILL ENSURE FULL CONSIDERATION OF WHAT I CONVEYED. IN THE MEANTIME HE GAVE ME HIS OWN PRELIMINARY REACTIONS WHICH I SUMMARISE BRIEFLY BELOW. A RATHER FULLER REPORT IS ON ITS WAY TO YOU BY ANOTHER CHANNEL.
3. ARMSTRONG SAID THE ISSUE CAME UP IN CABINET HERE TODAY AND THERE WAS A CLEAR WISH TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF WE WERE DEFLECTED NOW.
4. NO POLITICAL DAMAGE HAD BEEN INTENDED. ARMSTRONG HIMSELF THOUGHT THAT THE POINTS IN THE PM'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO WHICH WE TOOK EXCEPTION COULD BE EXPLAINED TO SOME EXTENT PERHAPS AS FOLLOWS:
 - (A) ALIENATION - THIS WAS PARTLY SEMANTIC BUT SHE DOES FEEL
----- THERE HAS BEEN EXAGGERATION AS MANY OF
MINORITY ARE WILLING TO LIVE AND WORK WITHIN EXISTING
SYSTEM
 - (B) FORUM OPTIONS - SHE HAS A FAIRLY BROAD BUT NOT VERY
----- DETAILED AWARENESS OF REPORT AND THESE
OPTIONS SEEMED TO LOOK LARGE TO HER.
5. THE PM HAD HOWEVER MEANT IT WHEN SHE HAD SAID THAT THE SUMMIT MEETING WAS A GOOD ONE. IT GOT DOWN TO SPECIFICS AND TO HARD QUESTIONS WHICH SHE LIKED - THOUGH TEMPERMENTALLY SHE NEVER WANTS TO MOVE UNTIL SHE CAN SEE A CLEAR WAY AHEAD.
6. ARMSTRONG FOCUSED SOMEWHAT ON FOURTH AND THIRD LAST

PARAGRAPHS OF AIDE MEMOIRE AND ASKED WHAT WE HAD IN MIND?
AN EARLY OFFICIAL LEVEL MEETING (ARMSTRONG/NALLY)? I SAID
I THOUGHT THIS WAS A GENERAL INVITATION RATHER THAN A VERY
SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. THE REFERENCE MEANT IN EFFECT THAT (1) OUR
GOVERNMENT HAD CONSIDERED THE PRESENT DIFFICULT SITUATION AND
I WAS CONVEYING OUR SERIOUS CONCERNS AS A RESULT. (11) THEY
WOULD CONSIDER IT AGAIN - WITH A HOPE I BELIEVED, THAT IT MIGHT
STILL BE POSSIBLE TO GO AHEAD (111) THE REFERENCE IN AIDE
MEMOIRE REFERRED BACK TO THE REQUEST IN TAOISEACH'S LETTER.
TAKEN TOGETHER THESE CONSTITUTED AN INVITATION TO THE BRITISH
SIDE TO CONSIDER HOW THEY MIGHT HELP TO OVERCOME THE PRESENT
SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES AND ACHIEVE THAT AIM.

7. IN A SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL DISCUSSION, GOODALL CONFIRMED
TO ME THAT OUR APPROACH WOULD BE CONSIDERED "WITH MAXIMUM
URGENCY". HE SAID SITUATION WAS PARTICULARLY REGRETTABLE
AS DISCUSSION ON SUNDAY/MONDAY HAD MADE QUITE A DEEP IMPRESSION.

END END END

/////

3320

TIME SENT: 18.25

E-A DUBLIN

F-A1 LDN