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~~By B. McLaughlin (on return from Commission on 6/10)~~

Secretary to the Govt.

I received this from David O'Donnell, DIFB. It is only a

cc: PST
PSS: Finlay
AIS: J. H. G.
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Joint Sec
Amb. L. M. +
W. S.
and K. G. - D/I
Counsellors H
G. C. + R. B. S.
R. M. G.

EUROPEAN UNION ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND AND BORDER AREAS

holding operation, prompted by the fact that British had in a paper earlier

Informal paper submitted by the Irish Government

EU Aid for Peace Process

hwh
6-10-94

1. The complete cessation of IRA violence which has been implemented since 31 August is profoundly encouraging for the efforts of the Irish and British Governments to achieve lasting peace and a comprehensive political settlement of the problem of Northern Ireland.
2. It is a major step towards the complete eradication of violence from Irish politics and may be seen against the background of the principles enunciated by the two Governments in the Joint Declaration of December 1993.
3. The two Governments have called on Loyalist paramilitary organizations to end their campaigns also and to play their part in the building of lasting peace.
4. Both Governments are determined to do everything in their power to consolidate the peace process and to ensure that it is irreversible.
5. Of particular importance in this context are measures which will (a) counter the effects of long-term deprivation, alienation and social exclusion in many parts of Northern Ireland (both urban and rural) and provide a stimulus for economic regeneration and political stability; and (b) help to offset the severe social and economic costs of the violence and unrest which adjacent border regions in the Republic have had to bear over the past 25 years.
6. The economic and social reconstruction of Northern Ireland and border regions is the best means of guarding against a return to violence and ensuring a stable, peaceful and democratic future.
7. A key priority must be the stimulation of employment and economic growth in the areas of greatest disadvantage. Patterns of deep-rooted and long-standing disadvantage will be best tackled by an integrated approach which recognizes the multi-dimensional nature of the problems

to be addressed. The provision of jobs in areas devastated by decades of high unemployment is of critical importance in overcoming distrust and division and encouraging lasting reconciliation between the two main traditions in Ireland.

8. The European Union has a vital role to play in this process.
9. We have welcomed as a very helpful first step the Commission's proposal (to which effect is now being given) to increase the Union's contribution to the International Fund for Ireland to 60 mecu over the next three years.
10. The scale of the problem which confronts both Governments, however, requires the dedication of substantial additional resources.
11. A comprehensive package of additional financial and other measures will help the two Governments to tackle the problems of the most seriously disadvantaged areas; to consolidate the historic gains made as a result of the cessation of IRA violence; and to capitalise on the unique opportunity for progress which the latter has provided.
12. The Irish Government look forward, accordingly, to detailed consultation with the Commission over the coming weeks on how best the Union's continued support and assistance can be shown through additional financial and other measures. One option for consideration would be a separate Community Initiative to reinforce the peace process which would alleviate disadvantage in Northern Ireland and border areas, promote reconciliation between both traditions and enhance practical cooperation between North and South.
13. We envisage that a package of measures might include the following elements:
 - Measures to stimulate employment in Northern Ireland and border areas (including Government-driven initiatives, enhanced provision of training schemes, extension of incentive schemes for employers, measures to assist the long-term unemployed and support for private investment);
 - Measures to promote urban reconstruction and regeneration (especially in Belfast and Derry);
 - Measures to support inward investment and trade, in particular North/South trade and business cooperation;

- Measures to develop practical North/South cooperation in the energy, transport, communications and other sectors;
 - Specific projects such as the development of the proposed Springvale campus in Belfast;
 - Measures to restore/improve infrastructure, including disrupted road links (development of certain reopened border roads);
 - Measures to develop the tourism industry in Northern Ireland and in border regions.
14. Specific proposals for support under these and possibly other headings are in preparation and will be communicated to the Commission within the very near future.