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GRS 269

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24 MAR 1993  
CIVIL SERVICE

PS/SOS  
Mr J HANLEY  
PS/Mr MATES  
PUS  
MR D FELL  
MR LEDLIE DUS (B)  
MR WOOD  
MR DODDS  
MR J STEELE  
MR M WILLIAMS  
MR LEACH  
MR MACCABE  
LIAISON X 2  
RUC 24.3.93  
RECEIVED.....

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SEC 25 MAR 1993  
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FM DUBLIN  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 103

OF 221630Z MARCH 93  
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(L), NIO(B), WASHINGTON, BIS NEW YORK

(1035/3)  
25 MAR 1993  
CENT SEC

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
Warrington  
M. Warrington  
D. J. 25/3

WARRINGTON BOMBS: IRISH REACTIONS

SUMMARY

1. STRONG GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA CONDEMNATION OF PIRA BOMBS IN WARRINGTON.

DETAIL

2. BOTH THE TAOISEACH AND TANAISTE ISSUED STATEMENTS OVER THE WEEKEND STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE IRA BOMBING ATROCITIES IN WARRINGTON ON SATURDAY 20 MARCH. REYNOLDS SAID HE WAS DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE LOSS OF LIFE AND TERRIBLE INJURIES INFLICTED 'THIS CRUEL AND COWARDLY ACT OF TERRORISM HAS ACHIEVED NOTHING BUT INFLICTED PAIN AND WIDESPREAD SUFFERING ON THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES'. SPRING CONDEMNED THE ACTS AS ONES OF 'TERRIBLE BRUTALITY, MADE ALL THE MORE DESPICABLE BY THE LOSS OF SUCH A YOUNG LIFE. THOSE RESPONSIBLE ACTED IN THE NAME OF NO ONE ELSE BUT THEMSELVES IN CARRYING OUT THESE MURDEROUS AND COWARDLY ATTACKS'.

3. THE PRESS YESTERDAY AND TODAY (22 MARCH) HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE BOMBINGS AND ALL CARRY TOUGH EDITORIALS AGAINST PIRA. ALL STRONGLY CONDEMN PIRA'S SICKENING ATTEMPT TO LAY THE BLAME ON THE BRITISH POLICE. AS THE IRISH TIMES PUTS IT 'ONLY THE NAIVE, OR THOSE WILLING TO BE MISLED, WILL BELIEVE THE EXCUSES AND THE ATTEMPTS TO BLAME THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES OR THE POLICE..... NOT ONLY WAS IT THE CERTAINTY THAT, SOONER OR LATER, PEOPLE ON THE STREETS WOULD BE KILLED: IT WAS EQUALLY CERTAIN THAT ONE OF THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE A WORSENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE IRISH COMMUNITY IN BRITAIN AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS'. CONCERN ABOUT A BACKLASH AGAINST THE IRISH COMMUNITY IN BRITAIN IS SHARED BY THE OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

BLATHERWICK

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INFO PRIORITY NIO(B), NIO(L)

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Mr J HANLEY  
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MR MACCABE  
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24 MAR 1993  
CIVIL SERVICE

*Mr J Hanley*  
*in office*  
*W. J. Hanley*  
*25/3/93*

WARRINGTON BOMBS: FLORAL TRIBUTE COLLECTION IN DUBLIN ON 25 MARCH

1. MICHAEL NUGENT, CHAIRMAN OF NEW CONSENSUS, INFORMED US THIS MORNING THAT HIS GROUP WILL BE ORGANISING A FLORAL TRIBUTE COLLECTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF WARRINGTON IN DUBLIN ON THURSDAY 25 MARCH TO SHOW IRISH SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE PIRA BOMBINGS IN WARRINGTON ON SATURDAY 20 MARCH, AND IRISH REJECTION OF THE ATROCITIES. THEY PROPOSE TO BRING THE COLLECTION OF FLOWERS TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY THE FOLLOWING DAY.

2. I AM KEEN TO HELP WITH THIS POSITIVE GESTURE - NEW CONSENSUS HAD A SIMILAR PROJECT FOLLOWING THE TEEBANE MURDERS IN JANUARY 1992 WHICH WAS WELL SUPPORTED IN DUBLIN. RYANAIR HAVE TOLD US THEY WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO ASSIST AND HAVE AGREED TO TRANSPORT THE FLOWERS - AND IN PRINCIPLE NUGENT - TO LIVERPOOL ON THE MORNING OF FRIDAY 26 MARCH, ARRIVING AT 1150 LOCAL TIME, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE. REPUBLIC OF IRELAND DEPARTMENT ARE PURSUING WITH THE MAYOR OF WARRINGTON'S OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECEIPT (TELECON MCKERVILL/CLARK).

BLATHERWICK

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 107

OF 231315Z MARCH 93

INFO IMMEDIATE NIOL, NIOB, WASHINGTON, BIS NEW YORK

MIPT: WARRINGTON BOMBS: TELECON GALLAGHER/GEORGE (RID)

1. WE TOLD THE DFA AS INSTRUCTED THAT JONATHAN BALL'S FAMILY HOPED TO KEEP HIS FUNERAL PRIVATE AND THAT IT WAS, THEREFORE, NOW UNLIKELY THAT A UK MINISTER WOULD ATTEND. WE ALSO TOLD THEM OF POLICE CONCERN GIVEN THE MOOD LOCALLY THAT ATTENDANCE BY AN IRISH MINISTER MIGHT SPARK AN ADVERSE REACTION. THEY TOOK CAREFUL NOTE.

BLATHERWICK

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PS/SOS

Mr J HANLEY

PS/Mr MATES

PUS

MR D FELL

MR LEDLIE DUS (B)

MR WOOD

MR DODDS

MR J STEELE

MR M WILLIAMS

MR LEACH

MR MACCABE

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TELNO 106  
OF 231300Z MARCH 93  
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(L), NIO(B), WASHINGTON,  
MY TELNO 103: WARRINGTON BOMBS: REACTIONS

SUMMARY

1. CONTINUED CONDEMNATION OF PIRA BOMBINGS IN WARRINGTON. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCE THAT IT WILL BE REPRESENTED AT JONATHAN BALL'S FUNERAL. FINE GAEL LEADER SUGGESTS AN ALL-PARTY LETTER TO MAYOR OF WARRINGTON. PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD IN DUBLIN ON 24 MARCH TO DISCUSS IRISH RESPONSE TO THE OUTRAGE. CORK EXAMINER JOINS IN ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND FOR RELATIVES.

DETAIL

2. REACTIONS TO THE IRA BOMBING ATROCITIES IN WARRINGTON ON SATURDAY 20 MARCH CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE NEWS IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND. IN A FURTHER STRONG CONDEMNATION THE TAOISEACH AND TANAISTE ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT YESTERDAY EVENING (22 MARCH) REPEATING "THE ABHORRENCE OF THE IRISH PEOPLE AT THE VIOLENCE THAT CAUSED THE OUTRAGE AT WARRINGTON". THE STATEMENT AGAIN OFFERED "THE SYMPATHY OF THE IRISH PEOPLE TO THE BEREAVED AND THE INJURED IN THIS LATEST, APPALLING ATROCITY". AND IN WHAT IS BEING REGARDED AS A SIGNIFICANT MOVE A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT THAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE FUNERAL OF JONATHAN BALL (SEE MIFT).

3. IN A SEPARATE MOVE JOHN BRUTON, LEADER OF FINE GAEL HAS WRITTEN TO THE TAOISEACH ASKING THAT A LETTER BE SENT TO THE MAYOR OF WARRINGTON FROM THE LEADERS OF ALL THE PARTIES IN THE DAIL EXPRESSING THEIR "REVULSION AT THE ATROCITY" AND STATING THEIR "DETERMINATION TO HELP IN ANY WAY IN OUR POWER TO TRACK DOWN THOSE RESPONSIBLE, AND EXPRESSING OUR COMMITMENT TO PEACE ON THESE ISLANDS". HE ALSO ASKED THAT A WAY BE FOUND FOR THE "BROAD MASS OF THE IRISH PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR SYMPATHY WITH THE VICTIMS". THE TAOISEACH HAS PROMISED TO "CONSIDER" MR BRUTON'S SUGGESTION.

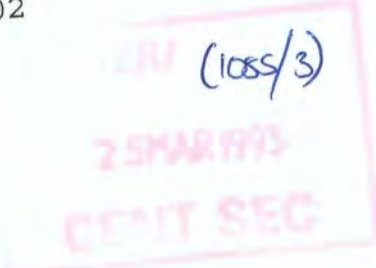
4. ALL THE NATIONAL DAILIES GIVE PUBLICITY TO NEW CONSENSUS' COLLECTION OF FLORAL TRIBUTES AT ST STEPHEN'S GREEN ON THURSDAY (MY TELNO 104). NEW CONSENSUS WILL ALSO BE CHAIRING A PUBLIC MEETING AT TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN TOMORROW EVENING (24 MARCH) ORGANISED BY A DUBLIN HOUSEWIFE DISGUSTED AT THE OUTRAGE AND WHO ANNOUNCED THE IDEA YESTERDAY ON A NATIONAL RADIO PROGRAMME. IN A FURTHER MOVE, THE CORK EXAMINER, "IN AN EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE VICTIMS OF THE WEEKEND IRA BOMBING", IS JOINING THE TRUST FUND LAUNCHED YESTERDAY BY THE IRISH NEWS. THE FUND HAS BEEN GIVEN THE FULL

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Mr J HANLEY  
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MR D FELL  
MR LEDLIE DUS (B)  
MR WOOD  
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MR J STEELE  
MR M WILLIAMS  
MR LEACH  
MR MACCABE  
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RUC 24.3.93  
RECEIVED BIS NEW YORK



*Handwritten signatures and initials, including 'Mrs W. P. ...' and 'P. J.' with a large '3' below it.*

AND ENTHUSIASTIC BACKING OF THE LORD MAYOR OF CORK WHO SAID IT  
WAS "A PRACTICAL WAY OF SHOWING OUR ABHORRENCE AT WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED AND SHOWING OUR SYMPATHY AND COMPASSION FOR THE  
VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES".

BLATHERWICK

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*in air*  
*M. H. [Signature]*

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WARRINGTON BOMBS: REACTIONS

Summary

1. Further widespread press coverage and condemnation of the Warrington bombs. An extraordinary wave of emotion made up of anger, sympathy, frustration and guilt.

Detail

2. On 23 March a spokesman for the President said that she extended "her deepest sympathy to the family of Jonathan Ball, to all those injured and to the people of Warrington". She shared the deep sorrow and anguish of people throughout Ireland and hoped "that the overwhelming response of grief and outrage may be harnessed in a constructive way to promote peace and reconciliation on this island and between these islands".

3. On 23 March all sides in the Dail condemned the Warrington bombings. The Taoiseach said that "a peaceful shopping precinct thronged with parents and their children was turned into a scene of utter carnage by an act of premeditated evil. The events at Warrington and other attacks in Britain show a cynical disregard for the effects of relations with the Irish community there. The bomb attack in Warrington and its perpetrators stand condemned by the Government and the people of Ireland". Both Bruton (Fine Gael leader) and McDowell (for the Progressive Democrats) urged positive Irish response and called for the urgent tightening of extradition laws. Bruton said that "it must be seen that the people stood together in sympathy and fellow-feeling with those who had lost loved ones and with the people in Britain in general".

4. The national media continue to give extensive coverage to the bombings. Today's Irish Press and Irish Independent both give front page coverage to Mr Ball's appeal to PIRA yesterday to "stop it right now".

5. The politicians' feelings are shared by the general public, who are being swept along in an extraordinary but genuine wave of emotion made up of anger, sympathy, frustration, guilt and shame. Hundreds of callers have expressed their outrage on Radio chatshows. The Embassy has received over 200 calls of sympathy, many of behalf of larger groups (eg the entire staff of a company). Letters are beginning to flow in. The public meeting this evening (24 March) at Trinity College Dublin is attracting growing publicity, as is the floral tribute collection tomorrow.