

PS/SOS 493/01

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493/91

ZCZC SP1865 08040852 OGI597 08.45
SP1
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LNNKAN 6121 DLLNAN 3865
UNCLASSIFIED
DD 080800Z NOIRO
FM DUBLI TO FCOLN
071625Z APR
GRS 391

UNCLASSIFIED
FM DUBLIN
TO DESKBY 080800Z FCO
TELNO 129
OF 071625Z APRIL 93
INFO DESKBY 080800Z NIO(L), NIO(B)

ASST
REC-14 APR 1993
CENT REC

PS/SOFSNI
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
RECEIVED 8.4.93

HEAD OF THE N.I.
CIVIL SERVICE
493/91

Mr Mappelle for free
Steve 8/4

TAOISEACH'S COMMENTS ON NORTHERN IRELAND

SUMMARY

1. TAOISEACH DEFENDS DAIL SPEECH ON NORTHERN IRELAND. STATES HIS FIRST PRIORITY IS TO GET TALKS RESUMED AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. EXTRADITION LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED EARLY IN THE NEXT SESSION OF THE DAIL.

DETAIL

2. AT QUESTION TIME IN THE DAIL ON THE 6 APRIL THE TAOISEACH FACED STRONG CRITICISM FROM OPPOSITION TD'S ABOUT THE SPEECH MADE BY HIM IN THE SPECIAL DAIL DEBATE ON NORTHERN IRELAND ON 1 APRIL.

3. REYNOLDS SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR ANYBODY TO PRODUCE A SPEECH WHICH WOULD BE WELCOMED BY EVERYBODY AND CLAIMED THAT HIS HAD BEEN MISREPRESENTED. HE TOTALLY REJECTED ANY SUGGESTION THAT HIS 1 APRIL SPEECH HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY PHRASED TO CLOSE OFF THE OPTION OF TALKS WITH UNIONISTS. HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO REITERATE THE POINT, THAT HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED IN MANY QUARTERS "BUT LARGELY IGNORED HERE, THAT WE TOTALLY CONDEMN AND REJECT VIOLENCE FROM WHATEVER SOURCE IN AN EVEN HANDED AND TOTALLY RESPONSIBLE WAY". HIS GOVERNMENT WAS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A LASTING POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

4. QUESTIONED BY WHAT HE MEANT BY "AN AGREED IRELAND" REYNOLDS REPLIED THAT HE HAD SAID FROM THE VERY START THAT ALL CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS SHOULD BE ON THE TABLE TOGETHER. THEY WOULD ALL LIKE TO SEE COMMUNITIES, DIVIDED FOR SO LONG, COMING TOGETHER AND WORKING OUT A SOLUTION FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS ISLAND. THE PRIORITY SHOULD BE TO END VIOLENCE, ESTABLISH PEACE, AND MANY THINGS COULD EVOLVE AFTER THAT. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION FROM JOHN BRUTON, FINE GAEL LEADER, ABOUT WHAT CHANGES HE WOULD SEEK IN RELATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND ACT 1920 REYNOLDS SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ENTICED INTO SETTING DOWN ANY PRECONDITIONS. THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE AROUND A TABLE NOT IN THE PUBLIC ARENA. HE ALSO DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN FIANNA FAIL AND LABOUR ON NORTHERN IRELAND. "WE HAVE SPENT A LONG TIME PUTTING IT TOGETHER IN OUR PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT. WE SPELT OUT QUITE CLEARLY WHAT OUR POLICY IS. BOTH PARTY LEADERS AND MEMBERS FULLY UNDERSTAND EXACTLY THE DIRECTION WE ARE GOING".

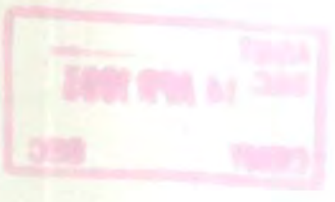
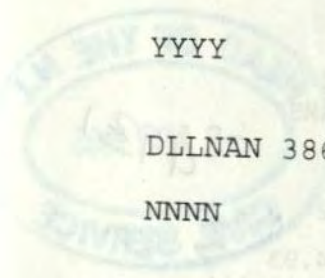
5. FINALLY THE TAOISEACH ANNOUNCED THAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON EXTRADITION WOULD BE INTRODUCED EARLY IN THE NEXT SESSION OF THE DAIL.

BLATHERWICK

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DLNAN 3865

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*Mr. Blatherwick
for Mr. Nolan*

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