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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

To: Mr D Nally

From: B McCarthy

Re: European Parliament Report on Northern Ireland
(Rapporteur: Niels Haagerup MEP)

This report is due for publication this evening. Its contents have been the subject of informal consultation between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Haagerup who provided a draft on the basis of strict confidentiality. There are two parts of the report which are important: (1) an Introductory Resolution and (2) Haagerup's conclusions and comments. The rest of the report is taken up with historical background and the current political position here and abroad in relation to Northern Ireland. (Foreign Affairs made a number of suggestions to Haagerup on this section including a more balanced statement of Ireland's position on extradition.)

I attach the text of the Introductory Resolution and the section "Conclusions and Comments". The Resolution contains the following main elements:-

- (a) the European Commission should undertake a major review of all ^{the} projects in Northern Ireland and in border areas with a view to an integrated plan for the development of Northern Ireland. A report is to be made to the European Parliament on the progress of this review;
- (b) urging the UK to join the EMS;
- (c) calling on the two Governments to create a political system in Northern Ireland with an equitable share of Government responsibilities, which would accommodate the identities of the two traditions;

*M. McCarthy
Report on
by Taoiseach
- thanks
14/*

*Mr Haagerup
Mr Keogh
2 notes
these notes
please
and file them
15
12
1983*

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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- (d) urging the Parliaments of the two countries to set up the Anglo-Irish Parliamentary body envisaged at the Heads of Government meeting in November, 1981 and offering to have members of the European Parliament take part in such a body if this meets with support from the British and Irish members of the EP.

Haagerup's main conclusions, which he stresses are his own personal ones, can be summarised as follows:-

- (a) Irish unity in the form of a unitary state cannot be brought about for the foreseeable future.
- (b) The concept of a joint approach to the financial problems posed by unity (by the US and Britain) is hardly realistic in the foreseeable future. Similarly, the idea of a UN or European Community peace-keeping force during the transition to Irish unity is unrealistic.
- (c) The alienation of the minority could partly be overcome if political structures were agreed by the British in cooperation with Northern Ireland elected representatives, without raising the constitutional question. Developing this, Haagerup accepts that the shelving of Irish unity would hardly be possible but states that if some consensus could be achieved that progress be made within the present constitutional framework of Northern Ireland (without prejudice to possible future changes) a basis might be found for a new form of partnership and cooperation. This consensus would have to be achieved among all Irish and British political parties.

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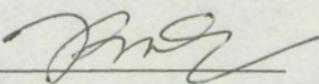
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- (d) If such a consensus were achieved, the Irish dimension of Northern Ireland must be catered for, including the establishment of joint British/Irish responsibilities in a number of fields.

It should be said that Haagerup acknowledges that some of his references to Irish unity will not be acceptable to the political parties in the South.

The emphasis in the conclusions ~~on~~ a settlement within the present constitutional framework could present problems for the Government were it to give an unqualified welcome to the report. Any comment from the Government should I think be confined to an acknowledgement ~~of~~ Haagerup's work in setting down the complex issues involved and suggesting that his report might be sent to the New Ireland Forum for its consideration.


17/11/83