

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Handwritten scribbles and initials

cc PSC
PSS
Mr. Bally (by hand)
Mr. Walsh
Mr. O'Sullivan

D#
E-A DUBLIN
F-A1 LDN

SERIAL NO 1420
UNCLASSIFIED

19284

Handwritten signature

IMMEDIATE
=====

TO HQ
FOR SWIFT

FROM LONDON
FGOM CAMPBELL

REF: QUEENS SPEECH

HEREWITH EXTRACT FROM SPEECH ON NORTH

'' IN NORTHERN IRELAND, MY GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN THEIR EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A FORM OF DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY AND TO ENSURE THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE ARE BROUGHT TO ACCOUNT BEFORE THE COURTS. MY MINISTERS WILL WORK ENERGETICALLY TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT. A BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED TO INCREASE THE REPRESENTATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE. ''

WE WILL SEND LATER IN AFTERNOON EXTRACT FROM GOVERNMENT EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM DISTRIBUTED ONLY, TO PRESS.

END
JC - 1.11.78 TIME: 13.40

⊕
E-A DUBLIN
F-A1 LDN

Handwritten mark

5300F ESTR EI
916104 IVERNA G
QQQ~~RRR~~QQQ

URGENT
=====
C208

TO HQ FROM LONDON
FOR SWIFT FROM CAMPBELL

MMELXUB

~~NRX~~
~~XRRR&NX~~

QUEEN'S SPEECH

1/11/78 *1550*
C. Smith

HEREWITH TEXT OF NON ATTRIBUTABLE BACKGROUND NOTE GIVEN TO MDEIA

QUOTE: POLITICALLY, THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM REMAINS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATION IN A FORM WHICH WILL COMMAND WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE IN BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY. THE FIVE-POINT FRAMEWORK PROPOSED LAST AUTUMN REPRESENTS ONE POSSIBLE FORM OF INTERIM ARRANGEMENT BUT THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS WILLING TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE SO FAR SUGGESTED PROVIDED ONLY THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE. MR MASON IS HAVING INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES, AND ALTHOUGH AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES, HOPES THAT MORE FORMAL DISCUSSIONS CAN BE STARTED. IN THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE PARTIES TO KEEP THEIR LONG-TERM ASPIRATIONS INTACT WHILST AGREEING TO LOOK SERIOUSLY AT WHAT MAY BE ACHIEVABLE IN THE INTERIM.

CONSTITUTIONALLY THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE RIGHT OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF NORTHERN IRELAND AS PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS. THE PRESENCE OF BRITISH TROOPS IS THE PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCE OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S STATUS AND THE TERRORIST THREAT. THE ARMY WILL REMAIN IN APPROPRIATE STRENGTH FOR AS LONG AS IT IS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE POLICE. THE OVERALL LEVEL OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY HAS AGAIN FALLEN THIS YEAR. IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1978, 66 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED INCLUDING 24 MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES. THE FIGURE FOR THE COMPARABLE PERIOD IN 1977 WAS 99, WITH 39 SECURITY FORCE DEATHS INCLUDED. INJURIES HAVE DROPPED BY OVER ONE-HALF (FROM 1174 TO 551). TOTAL SHOOTING INCIDENTS HAVE GONE DOWN FROM 947 TO 589. THERE HAVE BEEN 261 BOMB EXPLOSIONS COMPARED WITH 242 IN 1977 AND 606 IN 1976 (COMPARABLE 9 MONTH PERIODS).

ACTS OF TERRORISM ARE DEALT WITH UNDER THE CRIMINAL LAW.
AS A RESULT OF INCREASING POLICE SUCCESSES IN THE DETENTION
AND APPREHENSION OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE, 664
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH TERRORIST-TYPE OFFENCES IN THE
FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1978. THE OVERALL SECURITY SITUATION
REFLECTS THE DESIRE OF THE COMMUNITY FOR A NORMAL WAY OF LIFE,
AND THE FAILURE OF THE PARA-MILITARIES TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR
VIOLENCE. TERRORISM IS NOT KINISHED, BUT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
IS BEING MADE.

A SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE WAS SET UP IN JULY 1977, INCLUDING
REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES, TO CONSIDER
NORTHERN IRELAND'S REPRESENTATION AT WESTMINSTER. IT
RECOMMENDED TO THE PRIME MINISTER IM FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, WITH
ONLY ONE DISSIDENTING VOICE, THAT THE NUMBER OF CONSTITUENCIES
IN NORTHERN IRELAND SHOULD BE 17 BUT THAT THIS NUMBER MIGHT BE
VARIED TO 16 OR 18.

IT HAS BEEN RECOGNISED FOR SOME TIME THAT NORTHERN IRELAND
IS UNDER-REPRESENTED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. ONE NORTHERN
IRELAND MP REPRESENTS ON AVERAGE APPROXIMATELY 86,000 ELECTORS
WHEREAS HIS GREAT BRITAIN COUNTERPART REPRESENTS
ABOUT 64,000. THE BILL WILL IN NO WAY CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT'S
POLICY OF SEEKING A FORM OF DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT ACCEPTABLE TO
BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY. NOR WILL IT BRING ABOUT THE
"INTEGRATION" OF NORTHERN IRELAND WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

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IT MAY TAKE THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
UP TO TWO YEARS TO TAKE ALL THE NECESSARY LEGAL STEPS TO
DRAW UP THE NEW CONSTITUENCIES, AND IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN
APPARANT, SINCE THE SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE REPORTED, THAT THE NEW
CONSTITUENCIES COULD NOT BE DRAWN UP IN TIME FOR THE NEXT
GENERAL ELECTION. UNQUOTE.

V

END

JC

1/11/78

TIME:::15.55

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