

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2009/120/1965
Creation Date(s):	8 November 1979
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Access Conditions:	Open
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8/4/79.

Re circulate to
P/M's
A/Sec
Mr. Wrafter

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TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY DORR FROM P. DEMPSEY

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF ACCOUNT OF SIGNIFICANT POINTS WHICH AROSE IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING. ACCOUNT IS A SECOND HAND ONE, BASED ON BRIEFING WHICH I RECEIVED FROM WALLY KIRWAN. FULL REPORT WILL FOLLOW SOONEST.
2. AFTER TAOISEACH REFERRED IN HIS OPENING RESPONSE TO U.S. INVESTMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND, PRESIDENT ASKED WHETHER U.S. SHOULD RESTRAIN SUCH INVESTMENT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. TAOISEACH REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, SAYING THAT SUCH INVESTMENT WAS A POSITIVE FACTOR IN THE SITUATION.
3. THE PRESIDENT ENQUIRED WHETHER MTN AGREEMENTS WOULD GO THROUGH. MINISTER OUTLINED RESULT OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO FRENCH POSITION. PRESIDENT STATED U.S. DIFFICULTIES WITH DEADLINES. MINISTER REPLIED THAT WE WERE AWARE OF THESE AND WERE PUSHING FOR AGREEMENT. MINISTER WOULD BE SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED IF AGREEMENTS NOT FINALISED AT NEXT COUNCIL.
4. THERE WAS RELATIVELY EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF NEW BRITISH INITIATIVE WITH TAOISEACH BEING SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC AS TO THE PROSPECTS FOR ITS SUCCESS. PRESIDENT SAID THAT MRS. THATCHER HAD DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH HIM BUT HAD NOT GONE INTO GREAT DETAIL. SHE HAD STRESSED HER DESIRE TO OBTAIN A SOLUTION.

5. THE PRESIDENT ASKED IF GOOD RELATIONS EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO POLICE FORCES AND ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE AIR CORRIDOR. TAOISEACH EXPLAINED SITUATION IN REGARD TO COOPERATION WITH RUC AND ALSO OUTLINED THE RECENT UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE BRITISH WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO HELICOPTER SURVEILLANCE. HS ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTION OF NEGATIVE GUARANTEE AND GOVERNMENT CALL FOR A DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN IRISH UNITY.

6. SECRETARY VANCE ASKED FOR TAOISEACH'S VIEWS ON GUNS FOR THE RUC. TAOISEACH REFERRED TO THE HISTORY OF DISCRIMINATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND, FACT THAT RUC STILL NOT FULLY ACCEPTED, THE STRASBURG CASE AND THE FACT THAT NONE OF THE RUC OFFICERS INVOLVED HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO BOOK. THE PRESIDENT ENQUIRED WHETHER, IF THE BRITISH WERE TO LEAVE, IT MIGHT NOT BE AS WELL TO HAVE THE RUC AROUND. MINISTER REFERRED TO THE RESIDUAL FEELINGS OF MINORITY POPULATION ABOUT RUC. PRESIDENT ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY RECENT INCIDENTS.

REGRET THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE FULLER ACCOUNT AT THIS STAGE.

8 NOVEMBER 1979 HIBERNIA WASHINGTON

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