

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



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E-A DUBLIN
F-A1 LDN
SERIAL NO 435
UNCLASSIFIED

M Hennessy
Mr. Sheridan
PA file on ~~SH~~

IMMEDIATE
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TO HQ
FOR M HENNESSY

FROM LONDON
FROM P HENNESSY

85
20-5-83

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW TEXT OF SECTION DEALING WITH NORTHERN IRELAND FROM CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO RELEASED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER THIS MORNING. SHE DID NOT REFER TO NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE COURSE OF HER FAIRLY LENGTHY STATEMENT INTRODUCING THE MANIFESTO. IN RESPONSE TO THE ONLY QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT SHE SAID THAT SHE DID NOT WISH TO ADD TO WHAT WAS IN THE MANIFESTO BEYOND CONFIRMING THAT THE ASSEMBLY WAS REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT AND THAT NO FURTHER DEVOLUTION OF POWER WAS POSSIBLE UNLESS THERE WAS "CROSS-COMMUNITY" SUPPORT.

QUOTE

"NORTHERN IRELAND

IN NORTHERN IRELAND, BUILDING UPON THE COURAGE, COMMITMENT AND INCREASING SUCCESS OF OUR SECURITY FORCES, WE WILL GIVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO UPHOLDING LAW AND ORDER. WE WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE THE SUPPORT ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROVINCE TO OVERCOME ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WILL CONTINUE TO BE OFFERED A FRAMEWORK FOR PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL PROGRESS THROUGH THE ASSEMBLY. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN NORTHERN IRELAND'S CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE THERE, AND NO DEVOLUTION OF POWERS WITHOUT WIDESPREAD SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

WE BELIEVE THAT A CLOSE PRACTICAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC CAN CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND WITHOUT THREATENING IN ANY WAY THE POSITION OF THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY IN THE PROVINCE." UNQUOTE

END

18/05/83
TIME: 12.14
E-A DUBLIN
F-A1 LDN