

647/93

ASST SEC - 5 JAN 1996
CENT SEC

RESTRICTED

OO FCOLN NIOLN NOIRO EUCOM NEYOR WASHI ACTOR SNFBX WHIRL
FM DUBLI TO FCOLN
OF 03....Z JAN
GRS NC

in. [unclear] 8/1
This is actually more
instruction than today's liaison
Group; J. X was said in general 147/1
more. not so specifically, this may encourage
my did by Y. Z our Minister - unacceptably -
to do likewise.

RESTRICTED

FM DUBLIN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO
OF 03....JANUARY 1996
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(L), NIO(B), EU POSTS, CG FOR BIS NEW YORK
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, ACTOR, SNUFFBOX, WHIRL

SUBJECT: DRUG-RELATED KILLINGS IN NORTHERN IRELAND: IRISH REACTIONS

1. [unclear]
2. [unclear]

SUMMARY

1. Irish Government fear that condemnation by them of recent killings in Northern Ireland would risk splitting Sinn Fein. They intend to make their views known privately to Adams.

DETAIL

2. Sean Donlon (Taoiseach's Special Adviser) told me on 3 January that the Irish Government were gloomy about events in the North. They feared that if they were to condemn publicly the recent drug-related killings in Northern Ireland (which they firmly believed were the work of the IRA) this would run the risk of splitting Sinn Fein. Instead, the Taoiseach would send O hUiginn and Teahon to speak to Adams privately in the next few days.

3. Donlon said that the Taoiseach had felt extremely let down by the recent killings. He had accepted (and repeated publicly) Adams' word that the IRA would not resort to violence. For this reason, for the time being, Mr Bruton did not wish to see Adams personally. He might do so later, if his officials made any progress. Meanwhile he accepted that Adams was finding it hard to control his extremists.

COMMENT

4. Since taking the decision not to release nine IRA prisoners on 21 December, the Irish Government has passed little comment on the drug related killings in Northern Ireland. The Tanaiste has been the only Government Minister to speak publicly on the issue, when, in an interview on RTE radio

on 29 December, he said (after some prompting) that the shootings that had left seven dead in Northern Ireland since the ceasefires "were a worry", adding only that the Irish Government had made its views known on the matter.

5. The paucity of official comment has been in contrast to the extensive condemnation of the killings throughout the Irish media and by politicians in Northern Ireland). Donlon's explanation confirms speculation that the Irish Government wanted to avoid antagonizing Sinn Fein at what is perceived here as a particularly sensitive time.