

RESTRICTED

045225  
MDADAN 0423

RESTRICTED  
FM DUBLIN  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 61  
OF 121028Z FEBRUARY 97  
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(L), NIO(B), ACTOR, WHIRL, SNUFFBOX  
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON

SUBJECT : VISIT BY THE TAOISEACH TO NORTHERN IRELAND

## SUMMARY

1. TAOISEACH ANNOUNCES PLANS TO VISIT NORTHERN IRELAND. NO DATES YET FIXED.

## DETAIL

2. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION IN THE DAIL ON 11 FEBRUARY, THE TAOISEACH SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO VISIT NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE DECLINED TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS "FOR SECURITY REASONS". THE PRESS HAVE SPECULATED THAT THE VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE OVER THE ST PATRICK'S DAY PERIOD.

3. ACCORDING TO THE TAOISEACH'S DEPARTMENT, THE VISIT IS STILL VERY MUCH AT THE PLANNING STAGE, AND NO FIRM ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE (INDEED THE DRAFT REPLY PUT UP TO THE TAOISEACH FOR QUESTIONS TALKED IN TERMS OF HAVING /NO PLANS FOR SUCH A VISIT/). THE DFA AND TAOISEACH'S DEPARTMENT HAVE TOLD US THAT THE VISIT, (WHICH WAS LIKELY TO BE TO CO FERMANAGH) COULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS THE END OF NEXT WEEK. WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED FULL DETAILS AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

SUTHERLAND

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12

ADVANCE

.NORTHERN IRELAND

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CAOFF2//ASS STAFF/MR BUDD

NIO//SIR J CHILCOT

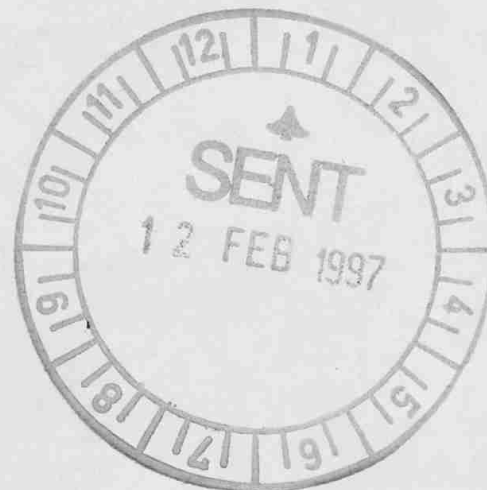
NIO//PS/S OF S

NIO//PS/MR ANCRAM

NIO//MR THOMAS

NIO//MS BHARUCHA

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