

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

File

M-12

Prime Minister
To be aware.
JH
12/2.

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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DISTRIBUTION

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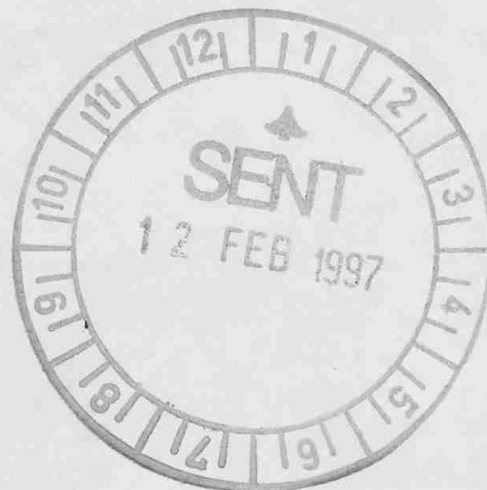
ADVANCE

12

.NORTHERN IRELAND
PS X 2
PS/PUS
RID//HD
NEWS D//HD X 2
PS/PM X 2
CAOFF1//PS/SEC/HD OD

CAOFF2//ASS STAFF/MR BUDD
NIO//SIR J CHILCOT
NIO//PS/S OF S
NIO//PS/MR ANCRAM
NIO//MR THOMAS
NIO//MS BHARUCHA

NNNN



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