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AN RÚNAÍOCHT ANGLA-ÉIREANNACH
BÉAL FEIRSTE

ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
BELFAST

Mr B. Brooke
14.11.90
PSM
re with; PPS
G.H.A.

9 November, 1990

Assistant Secretary,
Mr. Dermot Gallagher,
Anglo-Irish Division
Department of Foreign Affairs.

Dear Assistant Secretary,

Mr. Brooke's Speech at the Whitbread Brewery

Contrary to an indication given by Mr. Alston early in the week, Mr. Brooke's interesting speech does have a number of references which may be seen as referring back to his "100 days" interview of a year ago and Ambassador Fenn's speech to the Magill Summer School in Glenties.

At the time, Mr Alston noted that the speech was still being drafted (in his Division) and that he could not anticipate it too much. It seems to me that the balance of the speech has changed in drafting. It is now more of an appeal to republicans than a defence of British policy to a British audience which we were told on Tuesday was also a major reason for the speech.

The British side agreed this afternoon that there are "echoes and resonances" in the text of the "100 days" interview and the Fenn speech but they preferred to emphasise their comment early in the week that the intention was to develop the line of argument begun by Mr. Brooke in his recent speech to the East Belfast Rotary Club in which he strongly attacked the IRA campaign, by giving reasons why the IRA should desist. They also say that Mr King made similar remarks in his time. (That may be so but I cannot recollect their having made an equivalent impact.)

Incidentally, I understand that both John Chilcot and Ken Bloomfield were very much involved in the final drafting.

Yours sincerely,

Declan O'Sullivan

Joint Secretary