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[ADVANCE COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM HM AMBASSADOR]

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DD 081200Z FCOLN
OO NIOLN NOIRO
PP WASHI NYBIS
FM DUBLI TO FCOLN
081105Z JAN
GRS NC

UNDER/ SEC 190/1
-8 JAN 1993
CENT SEC

ASST SEC 11 JAN 1993
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TO DESKBY 081200Z FCO
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OF 081105Z JANUARY 93
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(L), NIO(B)
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, BIS NEW YORK

1. *in Quinn*
Talks

2. *in Quinn*

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11.

MIPT: NEW IRISH GOVERNMENT: NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Points of interest in the Fianna Fail/Labour text are:

(a) A commitment to the urgent resumption of talks.

(b) The mention of the New Ireland Forum Report. While this 1984 document remains the last agreed Nationalist position, we might have hoped to have got beyond it in last year's talks. It may just be relevant that Spring was Tanaiste when it and the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement were agreed, and was much involved in both.

(c) The commitment to "seek any necessary endorsement in a referendum for an agreed package" which achieves constitutional balance and creates structures to bridge divisions, promote reconciliation and "ensure enhanced co-operation". This falls short of an explicit commitment to put Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution to a referendum, but it implies that a new coalition government would be prepared to do so as part of a package. It may be possible to tease out the wording in the context of restarting talks. The section as a whole implies a deal comprising North/South structures, constitutional balance and constitutional amendment, with equality between the traditions in economic, political and "symbolic" matters. The word "administrative" implies minority representation eg perhaps through the SDLP's "external commissioners. The language is disappointing in that it formalises Irish positions.

Mr W/O
Ms Murphy

(d) The firm commitment to security measures and co-operation. The Defence section of the text also mentions as a priority equipping the defence forces to carry out their principal tasks, especially along the border.

2. In sum, there are few explicit changes from the positions adopted by the Irish in the talks before Christmas, though the overall tone, emphasising dialogue and cooperation, is helpful.

3. The DFA are refusing to speculate on the text.

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-8 JAN 1993
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Ms Murphy

1. *in Answer*
Talks
2. *in*
Pro. writing.

HS
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NEW IRISH GOVERNMENT: NORTHERN IRELAND

1. The following is the text of the passage on Northern Ireland from the Fianna Fail/Labour 'plan for a partnership Government, 1993-7', published on 7 January:

Quote.

Northern Ireland

The future welfare of all the people of Ireland is overshadowed by the conflict in Northern Ireland, which causes a heavy toll of human suffering and imposes a pointless and unwanted burden in terms of wasted resources and lost economic opportunity. A key element in the government's programme will be the search for an end to this conflict. We will mobilise all the resources of the government which can contribute to this process. In particular:

- We will seek an urgent resumption of political dialogue to address comprehensively all of the relationships involved in an open and innovative spirit, ready to discuss every issue and to incorporate all agreed changes:
- We will use this process to work towards an accommodation between the two traditions in Ireland, based on the principle that both must have equally satisfactory, secure and durable, political, administrative and symbolic expression and protection, as set out in the Forum Report:
- Since the final outcome of such negotiations will need to be acceptable to the people North and South, we will seek any necessary endorsement in a referendum for an agreed package, which achieves a balanced accommodation of the

differing positions of the two main traditions on constitutional issues, and creates structures which will bridge divisions and promote reconciliation between the unionist and nationalist traditions and ensure enhanced co-operation between both parts of Ireland:

- Unless or until it is transcended by new agreed arrangements, we will continue to operate fully the provisions of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, in close co-operation with the British Government, to deal with issues concerned with Northern Ireland and with relations between the two parts of Ireland:
- Recognising that violence, from whatever source, is repugnant to the great majority of people in both parts of Ireland and a major obstacle to political progress, we will seek to combat it through the necessary security measures and co-operation and to the greatest extent possible prevent it:
- The challenges of economic development are a shared concern of both parts of Ireland. We believe that economic co-operation between North and South can be substantially expanded to mutual advantage and will make this a priority, completing such projects as the Ballinamore-Ballyconnell canal and the modernisation of the Dublin-Belfast railway:
- We will bring forward programmes of action in this area, taking account in particular of the opportunities arising from the advent of the single market and the range of EC programmes which can be harnessed to develop a comprehensive and full-fledged partnership between North and South:
- In addition to developing co-operation at official level, we will also seek in this area to build on the substantive North-South co-operation already in place between private sector and voluntary bodies and through the work of the International Fund for Ireland.

Unquote.

2. See MIFT for comment.