

INWARD CABLEGRAM

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O.DU303 MK11
TOR 1228 24.12.74

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TO.
PP LONDON/103

RP
PP CANBERRA/430
RP. RR BRUSSELS/19 PARIS/14 BONN/11
RR ROME/09 THE HAGUE/11

FM. DUBLIN/ FILE 221/4/7/1/3 AND 300/7

U N C L A S S I F I E D

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO IRELAND: PRESS CONFERENCE.

FOR MRS DWYER (ASSISTANT PRESS SECRETARY)

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE
IN DUBLIN AFTERNOON OF 23 DECEMBER:

BEGINS:

Q. I UNDERSTAND MR PRIME MINISTER THAT YOU DISCUSSED WITH THE TAOISEACH THE TRADE BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND IRELAND, BOTH OF THEM, WITH THE EEC. NOW YOU APPARENTLY EXPRESSED SOME PARTICULAR INTEREST IN MEAT AND SUGAR. IN WHAT WAY WOULD IRELAND BE ABLE TO ASSIST THIS IN THE EEC CONTEXT?

P.M.: THE TAOISEACH DID POINT OUT TO ME THE GRATIFYING INCREASE IN SALES BY IRELAND TO AUSTRALIA. WE ARE NATURALLY ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE CONTRIBUTION THAT CAN BE MADE BY IRELAND AS ONE OF THE NINE IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. AUSTRALIA WAS FOUNDED BY THE...BY TWO OF THE THREE NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, BRITAIN AND IRELAND, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THOSE TWO NEW MEMBERS WILL UNDERSTAND THE LINKS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN EUROPE AND HOPEFULLY BE SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS THEM. THE COMMUNITY IS ONE OF THE THREE BIG ECONOMIC GROUPINGS WITH WHICH AUSTRALIA HAS TRADE, THE OTHER TWO BEING, OF COURSE, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

Q. LAURIE OAKES, MELBOURNE SUN: PRIME MINISTER, WE'RE TOLD THAT WHEN YOU SPOKE TO THE IRISH PRIME MINISTER TODAY YOU DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND PRESUMABLY IT IS NOT WITHOUT RELEVANCE THAT THE BOMBS WERE GETTING GRADUALLY CLOSER TO YOUR HOTEL BEFORE THE TRUCE CAME INTO EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT. CAN YOU GIVE US YOUR VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND?

P.M.: THE BOMBS WERE FOR THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, NOT FOR PRIME MINISTER. NATURALLY, SERIOUSLY, THOSE WITH ME, AND

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I TOO, WERE VERY ANXIOUS TO HEAR WHAT THE TAOISEACH HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE POSITION IN IRELAND. I AM TALKING ABOUT THE WHOLE ISLAND. AND IT WAS VALUABLE FOR US TO HAVE HIS ASSESSMENT AND HIS ANALYSIS OF THE POSSIBILITIES. HE HAS, OF COURSE, WRITTEN AND SPOKEN ON THIS MATTER, AND I HAVE A PUBLICATION, A BOOK, OF HIS ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. MR WHITLAM, TOM MCLOUGHLIN, IRISH TELEVISION: IF I COULD GET BACK JUST TO THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT. I UNDERSTAND YOU WILL BE VISITING OTHER EEC COUNTRIES. WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

P.M.: WE ARE VISITING SEVEN OF THE NINE, ALL EXCEPT DENMARK AND LUXEMBOURG. WE WANT TO REAFFIRM THE TIES BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN EUROPE. THESE ARE HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AS WELL AS BEING COMMERCIAL. I HAVE BEEN ASKED A QUESTION ALREADY ABOUT THE COMMERCIAL TIES AND THESE ARE OF VERY GREAT SIGNIFICANCE. MANY OF THE PRODUCTS WHICH AUSTRALIA HAS TRADITIONALLY EXPORTED ARE NOW IN SOME JEOPARDY BECAUSE THEY WERE EXPORTED TO ENGLAND, AND ENGLAND CAN NOW IMPORT THEM ONLY WITHIN THE EEC CONTEXT. THERE ARE OTHER PRODUCTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL FIELD, WHERE THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE MAY WELL BE INTERESTED IN HAVING SUCH A SECURE HIGH QUALITY AND RELATIVELY CHEAP SOURCE OF SUPPLY AS AUSTRALIA. AUSTRALIA IS INTERESTED IN SEEING THAT THERE ARE LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANY SUCH PRODUCTS. IN ADDITION TO THAT, AUSTRALIA IS A VERY WELL-ENDOWED COUNTRY IN RESPECT TO ENERGY RESOURCES AND IN BRUSSELS A WEEK AGO I WAS DISCUSSING WITH THE COMMISSION THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING THESE RESOURCES IN AUSTRALIA AND ESTABLISHING A LONG-TERM MARKET FOR THEM WITH THE COMMUNITY. IN PARTICULAR, OF COURSE, URANIUM AND COAL.

Q. HAS BRITAIN'S ENTRY INTO THE EEC CAUSED YOU VERY SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN AUSTRALIA?

P.M.: AUSTRALIA HAS ADJUSTED TO THEM. IN 1962 WHEN PRIME MINISTER MC MILLAN FIRST APPLIED TO JOIN... FIRST SOUGHT BRITAIN'S ADMISSION TO THE COMMUNITY ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF AUSTRALIA'S EXPORTS WENT TO BRITAIN. NOW IT IS BARELY 6 PER CENT. AUSTRALIA HAS ADJUSTED HER EXPORT PATTERN VERY GREATLY IN THE INTERIM. JAPAN IS NOW THE LARGEST COMMERCIAL PARTNER OF AUSTRALIA.

Q. ARE YOU HOPEFUL THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO COME TO SOME LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC?

P.M.: NOT OVERALL. WE ARE THINKING OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES AND LONG TERM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THOSE COMMODITIES. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE REGULAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE COMMISSION

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THE FIRST ONES WILL BE IN THE MIDDLE OF 1975 WE EXPECT.

Q. YOUR COMMUNIQUE MENTIONS ESPECIALLY BEEF AND SUGAR. I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT WE EXPORT BOTH AND THAT WE HAVE BEEN HAVING DIFFICULTIES, LIKE YOURSELF, IN RELATION TO BEEF. CAN YOU THEREFORE TELL ME WHAT RESPONSE YOU HAD IN YOUR TALKS TODAY ON THOSE TWO ITEMS?

P.M.: IRELAND HAS ALWAYS BEEN A VERY LARGE EXPORTER OF BEEF TO BRITAIN, AND WOULD I EXPECT BE A LARGE EXPORTER OF BEEF TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. THERE ARE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH WOULD ALSO DEPEND ON THE BEEF MARKET IN THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE SUCH AS DENMARK, AND THE LOW COUNTRIES. THE DIFFICULTY HAS ARISEN IN THE LAST YEAR, WHERE SO MANY PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT THE MARKET FOR IMPORTS IN THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE MUCH LARGER AND WOULD CONTINUE MUCH LARGER THAN IS NOW LIKELY TO BE THE CASE. BUT NEVERTHELESS THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A MARKET FOR IMPORTS FROM COUNTRIES NOT IN THE MARKET, AND AUSTRALIA IS INTERESTED IN INVESTIGATING THOSE POSSIBILITIES ON A LONG-TERM BASIS. WE WANT TO SEE THAT IF WE GUARANTEE OR MAKE ANY INVESTMENTS IN PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR THOSE EXPORTS THAT WE CAN GET A RETURN ON THOSE FACILITIES. I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK THAT IRELAND'S AND AUSTRALIA'S INTERESTS ARE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO EACH OTHER. CLEARLY I... WE OBVIOUSLY ARE RIVALS IN AN EXTENT AND IRELAND WOULD HAVE FIRST CLAIM. BUT IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL NEED FROM SEASON TO SEASON MORE BEEF THAN IT CAN ITSELF PRODUCE, AND AUSTRALIA WOULD CLEARLY BE A SUITABLE SUPPLIER BECAUSE OF PRICE AND QUALITY.

Q. D'ARCY OF O-10 NETWORK: PRIME MINISTER, MY QUESTION FOLLOWS ONE ASKED BY LAURIE OAKES EARLIER ON. WITHOUT ASKING YOU TO COMMENT ON THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY SIR, COULD I ASK YOU WHAT YOUR ATTITUDE IS GENERALLY TOWARDS TERRORISM, ESPECIALLY OF THE TYPE THAT IS SEEN IN RECENT DAYS?

P.M.: WELL OBVIOUSLY MY GOVERNMENT, LIKE EVERY GOVERNMENT MUST DO ALL IT CAN TO STAMP OUT TERRORISM, TO IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE THAT ARE LIKELY TO PERPETRATE IT.

Q. MR PRIME MINISTER JUST TO CLARIFY YOUR ANSWER ON BEEF, DO YOU WISH TO SEE AN END TO THE EEC BEEF EMBARGO OR NOT?

P.M.: A TOTAL EMBARGO, CERTAINLY, OF COURSE. I WOULD THINK THAT OVER THE YEARS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE MOST AFFLUENT PARTS OF THE WORLD, SUCH AS NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION WILL BE SELF-CONTAINED IN BEEF. AUSTRALIA, CLIMATICALLY AND BECAUSE OF HER AREA, CAN PRODUCE BEEF VERY ADVANTAGEOUSLY.

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Q. DID YOU FIND MR PRIME MINISTER THAT MR COSGRAVE AGREED WITH THAT POINT OF VIEW?

P.M.: OH, WELL WE DIDN'T GO INTO ANY DETAILS ON THESE MATTERS. OBVIOUSLY WE HAD A GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THESE MATTERS, AND IT WAS VERY USEFUL FOR US TO HAVE THE VIEW OF IRELAND SINCE IT HAS BEEN A VERY GREAT EXPORTER OF BEEF TO COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOW IN THE MARKET.

Q. DID HE GIVE YOU ANY ASSURANCES?

P.M.: NO, NO OF COURSE NOT, AND THEY WEREN'T SOUGHT.

Q. NO, I'LL FINISH THE QUESTION.....REGARDING IRELAND'S ATTITUDE TO PERHAPS AUSTRALIAN SALES OF SUGAR TO THE COMMON MARKET.

P.M.: NO, THERE WAS SCARCELY ANY ... THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION ON THIS WITH THE TAOISEACH AND HIS MINISTERS, BUT NO, NO DETAIL DISCUSSION LIKE THAT.

Q. PRIME MINISTER, GLENNON, IRISH INDEPENDENT: IT IS REPORTED HERE THAT OUR MINISTER OF LABOUR FAILED TO KEEP SOME APPOINTMENTS MADE BY YOUR GOVERNMENT WHEN HE WAS ON A VISIT TO AUSTRALIA SOME WEEKS AGO. DID THIS QUESTION COME UP IN ANY WAY BETWEEN YOURSELF AND THE TAOISEACH?

P.M.: NO, IN NO WAY WHATEVER. NO WAY WHATEVER. MR O'LEARY WAS A GUEST OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WHILE HE WAS IN AUSTRALIA. IN PARTICULAR, HE SAW MY MINISTER FOR LABOUR. THAT IS THE IRISH MINISTER FOR LABOUR SAW THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR LABOUR. AND I KNOW THAT MY MINISTER APPRECIATED THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. FURTHERMORE, THE IRISH MINISTER FOR LABOUR, MR O'LEARY ALSO VISITED PAPUA NEW GUINEA. AND HIS VIEWS, HIS ASSESSMENT THERE WERE HELPFUL TO MY GOVERNMENT.

Q. PRIME MINISTER. A QUESTION MOSTLY OF INTEREST TO AUSTRALIAN READERS. FOLLOWING YOUR LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE AND YOUR COMMENTS ON G.M.H. COULD I ASK YOU IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THE G.M.H. DECISION TO SACK WORKERS IN AUSTRALIA WAS ONE IMPOSED ON THE AUSTRALIAN COMPANY FROM DETROIT?

P.M.: I DON'T KNOW.

Q. PRIME MINISTER, HAVING SAMPLED THE IRISH HOSPITALITY.....

P.M. WHAT, IS THAT SO OBVIOUS?

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Q. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF GUINNESS STOUT? DO YOU THINK THAT IT RATES WITH FOSTER'S LAGER?

P.M.: I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THEY WERE... THEY WERE DIFFERENT SUBSTANCES. I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT THERE WAS ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN IRISH STOUT AND IRISH BEER. STILL LESS BETWEEN IRISH STOUT AND AUSTRALIAN BEER. I MEAN, I ... THE TAOISEACH'S LUNCHEON TOOK PLACE IN A MONUMENT TO IRISH HOSPITALITY AND THE VEAGH HOUSE. A MONUMENT TO GUINNESS PATRIOTISM AND HOSPITALITY AND THE RESPONSE WHICH THE IRISH PEOPLE OVER THE CENTURIES HAVE MADE TO THAT PRODUCT. IT... A MAGNIFICENT PLACE, EXCELLENT HOSPITALITY.

Q. PRIME MINISTER. HIGHFIELD, ABC. WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION BETWEEN YOURSELF AND THE IRISH AUTHORITIES ON THE QUESTION OF AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM HERE? SEVERAL WEEK AGO SOME WEAPONS WERE FOUND WHICH WERE ALLEGED TO BE STOLEN FROM AUSTRALIAN ARMY STORES.

P.M.: NEVER MENTIONED.

Q. YOUR EXCELLENCY. HAVING IN MIND THE ECONOMIC COLLAPSE WHICH IS FORECAST FOR THESE ISLANDS IN THE NEXT YEAR, WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE MORE EMMIGRATION FROM THESE ISLANDS TO AUSTRALIA IN THE NEXT SAY TWO OR THREE YEARS?

P.M.: IRISH MIGRANTS HAVE BEEN VERY NUMEROUS TO AUSTRALIA, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SIGNIFICANT AND A VALUABLE MIGRATION FROM IRELAND TO AUSTRALIA. AUSTRALIAN.... MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA WILL NOW DEPEND PRINCIPALLY ON PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA WHO NOMINATE CLOSE RELATIVES AS INDIVIDUALS. IT WILL NOT BE OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP SO MUCH AS INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIP. YOU MUST HAVE A JOB TO GO TO AND PARTICULARLY, OF COURSE, YOU OUGHT TO BE A CLOSE RELATIVE. AND THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA WHO HAVE CLOSE RELATIVES IN IRELAND. NEVERTHELESS, I WOULD EXPECT THAT MIGRATION WILL NOT BE AS COPIOUS AS IT WAS, SAY, TWENTY YEARS AGO. THERE IS NOT THE SAME SCOPE TO EMPLOY MIGRANTS IN AUSTRALIA AS THERE USED TO BE AND AT THE SAME TIME THE INTEGRATION OF EUROPE AS A WHOLE WILL MEAN, I EXPECT, THAT FEWER PEOPLE WILL BE LEAVING EUROPE FOR OTHER CONTINENTS.

Q. PRIME MINISTER. AFTER EIGHT MONTHS IT IS FAIRLY CLEAR THAT MR GAIR THRIVES ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIFE. CAN YOU TELL US WHEN HIS TERM ENDS AT THE END OF THREE YEARS WILL HE BE OFFERED ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC POST?

P.M.: I'LL CONSIDER THAT IN MY NEXT GOVERNMENT.

Q. DID THE TAOISEACH ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION....

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P.M.: PARDON?

Q. DID THE TAOISEACH ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION TO GO TO AUSTRALIA AND IF HE DID WHEN IS HE GOING?

P.M.: AH WELL, I BELIEVE THAT THE TAOISEACH IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF VISITING AUSTRALIA. MIND YOU AUSTRALIANS ARE NOT IN A VERY STRONG POSITION TO PRESS THE PRIME MINISTER OF IRELAND TO VISIT AUSTRALIA, BECAUSE IT'S 33 YEARS AND MORE SINCE AN AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER LAST VISITED IRELAND. HOWEVER, I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S EVER BEEN A VISIT BY AN IRISH PRIME MINISTER TO AUSTRALIA. I WOULD THINK IT WOULD BE VERY APPROPRIATE - IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE VERY WARMLY RECEIVED, IF A TAOISEACH WERE TO VISIT AUSTRALIA, BECAUSE AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL IRISH COLONIES. THE ONLY LARGER ONES WOULD BE THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

Q. MR WHITLAM. POWER, IRISH INDEPENDENT: DO YOU SEE YOURSELF COMING BACK FOR A LONGER VISIT TO IRELAND? THIS IS YOUR SECOND TIME HERE ISN'T IT AND EACH TIME IT WAS ONLY FOR A ONE DAY VISIT?

P.M.: NO IT'S MY FOURTH TIME I'VE BEEN HERE. THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME I'VE VISITED IRELAND. I CAME HERE IN 1962, 1967 AND IN JANUARY 1972. FOR A MAN WHO HASN'T GOT A DROP OF IRISH BLOOD IN HIS VEINS, I'M A FAIRLY REGULAR VISITOR.

INTERJECTION: AMBASSADOR GAIR.. YOU'RE AN R.C. A REGULAR CUSTOMER.

P.M. I'M...I'M....I AM AN ADHERENT ...I AM AN ADHERENT OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND. I AM A SEPARATED BROTHER.

AMBASSADOR GAIR: WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU EVERY DAY.

P.M.: THE...I'VE COME TO KNOW THE LEADING MEMBERS OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND THE IRISH OPPOSITION ON THESE VISITS AND SEVERAL OF THEM HAVE VISITED AUSTRALIA. MR COSTELLO AND MR O'LEARY OF COURSE HAVE BEEN THERE THIS YEAR. SO IT IS VERY EASY FOR ME TO PICK UP A CONVERSATION WITH MR LYNCH OR MR COSGRAVE BECAUSE I'VE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM OVER THE YEARS.

Q. DO YOU SEE YOURSELF HAVING AN EXTENDED HOLIDAY HERE AT SOME STAGE?

P.M.: I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY PLEASANT.

INTERJECTION: AMBASSADOR GAIR. I'VE INVITED HIM TO COME OVER.

Q. MR WHITLAM CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO THE FACT THAT YOU DISCUSSED WITH THE TAOISEACH THE SUMMIT MEETINGS OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN PARIS. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON THAT A

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LITTLE BIT?

P.M.: YOU SHOULD GET THAT FROM THE TAOISEACH HIMSELF. BUT HE.. YOU KNOW, THERE'S NO POINT IN ME, AT SECOND HAND, GIVING THE ACCOUNT WHICH HE'S ABLE SO WELL TO GIVE SINCE HE AND DR FITZGERALD PARTICIPATED IN THEM. I'M...I'LL BE VERY GLAD TO HEAR THROUGH THE AMBASSADOR AND OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTH WHEN MR...DR FITZGERALD WILL BE PRESIDING.

Q. I JUST WASN'T TOO CLEAR WHAT THIS REFERENCE WAS. I UNDERSTAND NOW.

P.M.: WE ARE VERY INTERESTED, NATURALLY, IN HAVING THE IRISH ASSESSMENT OF TRENDS IN THE COMMUNITY.

Q. MR WHITLAM, ARE YOU MISSING THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS?

P.M. OR, I DON'T MIND CHRISTMAS IN THE BRITISH ISLES... CHRISTMAS IS ... I'M AMONG FRIENDS HERE...BOSOM OF MY FAMILY.

ENDS.

A/PRIME MINISTER
 FOREIGN MINISTER
 FOREIGN AFFAIRS
 MIN AND DEPT DEFENCE
 JIO
 MIN AND DEPT LABOR AND IMMIGRATION (C)
 MIN AND DEPT OVERSEAS TRADE
 MIN AND DEPT MINERALS AND ENERGY
 TREASURER AND TREASURY
 PMS PRESS OFFICE
 PMS PRIVATE OFFICE
 AIS (C)
 PM AND C
 MR B JOHNS (PM AND C)
 MR MENADUE
 ADAA (C)
 MIN AND DEPT AGRICULTURE

31 DEC 1974	SEC		A & M	MR. GRIFFITH?	✓
	DEP SECS	✓	COMM AFF	PRESS OFFICE	✓
	FEP		EXT AFF		
	PROF DIV		GEN DIV / 8	
	DEV DIV		C & M	CABLES	✓
No. OF F/C REQ'D					