

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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COMMUNICATIONS
SECTION

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RE: DISARMAMENT (Irish Proposals)

1. Our selective canvass of opinion on Irish proposals (reported in classified summaries, DELGAs 245 and 252) shows that Ireland has little positive support. Both proposals apparently can be beaten by negative votes of NATO and other allies. Many DELS from Africa, Asia and Latin America, and even some of our allies, will abstain, however, because they do not want to vote against something designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, a principle with which they agree.

2. I have not found any argument that I can use publicly to explain vote against Irish proposals that would sound reasonable and persuasive and not make us appear before world opinion to favor spread of nuclear weapons. This applies especially to Irish RES to appoint committee to study matter. It is essential for me to have such an argument that I can make, if necessary, at proper time.

3. I hope DEPT will also continue to consider, as an alternative way of handling this, new language on the subject matter of Irish RES we might add to 17-power RES. It is always easier to vote against bad but embarrassing text if there is something else to take its place. We ought to be able to find some acceptable way of stating principle involved since it is inherent in our own long-range disarmament position.

LODGE

COUNS *[Signature]*

HCLodge/RFP *[Signature]* :nmg
Cleared with Mr. Banco in draft *[Signature]*
[Signature]

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