

UNCLASSIFIED *CLP 240*
FM WASHINGTON 140101Z OCT 81
TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3048 OF 14 OCTOBER 1981 PS TO PM. NO 10 DOWNING STREET.
INFO NIO LONDON, NIO BELFAST, BIS NEW YORK,
INFO SAVING DUBLIN.

MIPT: NORTHERN IRELAND: DAILY EXPRESS COMMENT.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF O'NEILL'S STATEMENT:
BEGINS:

"THE CHARGE BY THE LONDON DAILY EXPRESS THAT IN MY PUBLIC SPEECHES I HAVE GIVEN AID AND COMFORT TO THE PEOPLE COLLECTING FUNDS FOR THE IRA IS TOTALLY UNWARRENTED AND UTTERLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. JUST THE CONTRARY IS TRUE. UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE HUNGER STRIKE THE JOINT ANNUAL APPEALS MADE BY SENATORS KENNEDY AND MOYNIHAN, GOVERNOR CAREY AND ME WERE QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING SUPPORT FOR PROVISIONAL FRONT ORGANISATIONS. THOSE EFFORTS, AS WELL AS SCORES OF OTHER STATEMENTS AGAINST THE MEN OF VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY, AMONG OTHERS, PRIME MINISTER THATCHER AND THE FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, HUMPHREY ATKINS.

(O'NEILL THEN QUOTES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER OF 14 MAY 1981 AND FROM A STATEMENT BY MR ATKINS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 7 FEBRUARY 1980. HANSARD COL 718):

TODAY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES THE IRISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES MENTIONS THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE NOW ALIVE IN IRELAND BECAUSE OF THE POSITION MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE TAKEN AGAINST THE FORCES OF VIOLENCE IN IRELAND. MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE FOR SEVERAL YEARS PUBLICLY AND WITHOUT QUALIFICATION ENCOURAGED THOSE AMERICANS WHO SUPPORT A UNITED IRELAND TO REJECT THE PATH OF THE BOMB AND BULLET.

FALSE CHARGES, SUCH AS THOSE MADE BY THE DAILY EXPRESS, DO NOTHING TO PROMOTE AN END TO AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE MEN OF VIOLENCE. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY ONLY SERVE TO PROMOTE AN UNFORTUNATE CONTROVERSY THAT WILL NOT BENEFIT THOSE WHO GENUINELY DESIRE PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND."

ENDS.

PLEASE ADVANCE TO RID, NIO AND NO 10 DOWNING STREET.

FCO PASS SAVING DUBLIN.

(ADVANCED AS REQUESTED)
(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

HENDERSON

LIMITED
RID
KAD
INFO DEPT
WED
MAED
NEWS D
SECURITY D
FUSD
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR HURD

PS/AL LUCE
PS/FULL
SIR A ACLAND
MR ADAMS
MR BULLARD
MR FERGUSSON
LORD N G LENNOX
MR BRAITHWAITE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN IRELAND