

*Inland*

PS TO PM, NO 10 DOWNING STREET.

GR 280

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DESKBY 160800Z

FM WASHINGTON 152222Z OCT 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3078 OF 15 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST, NIO LONDON AND BIS NEW YORK

INFO SAVING CONSULS-GENERAL IN USA

*M*

**NORTHERN IRELAND: VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY OWEN CARRON MP**

1. FOLLOWING OUR ENQUIRY THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE CONFIRMED THAT CARRON HAS APPLIED IN BELFAST FOR A VISA TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. SINCE WE HAVE HEARD SEPARATELY THAT CARRON HAS ASKED FOR AT LEAST ONE MEETING IN THE SENATE ON THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER HE CLEARLY PLANS TO COME HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. DECISIONS ON VISAS ARE A MATTER FOR THE US POST CONCERNED, I.E. THE US CONSUL-GENERAL IN BELFAST IN CONSULTATION WITH THE US EMBASSY IN LONDON. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT ADVICE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE GIVING TO THE US CONSUL-GENERAL THOUGH THE POLITICAL BUREAU HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE VISA REQUEST BE TURNED DOWN EITHER ON THE GROUND THAT CARRON HAS OPENLY ADVOCATED VIOLENCE OR THAT HIS VISIT WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS.

3 A VISIT BY CARRON, STIRRING THE MUD SO SOON AFTER THE END OF THE HUNGER STRIKE, IS CLEARLY NOT IN OUR INTEREST. WHILE WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO WEIGH IN HEAVY-HANDEDLY ON WHAT IS AN AMERICAN DECISION YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER TELLING THE US EMBASSY IN LONDON THAT WE HAVE HEARD THAT CARRON PLANS TO COME HERE AND REMIND THEM THAT CARRON HAS OPENLY ENDORSED PIRA AIMS AND METHODS.

HENDERSON

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