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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3719 OF 8 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST, DUBLIN, UKREP BRUSSELS (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)

YOUR TELNO 1889: CLARK VISIT TO LONDON

1. I WAS ON THE POINT OF GETTING INTO TOUCH WITH JUDGE CLARK WHEN HE TELEPHONED ME THIS MORNING. HE SAID THAT HE HAD WANTED TO SPEAK TO THE LORD PRIVY SEAL ON THE TELEPHONE BUT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH HIM IN BRUSSELS.

2. CLARK SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD OF FERGUSSON'S COMPLAINT TO THE US EMBASSY IN LONDON (WHICH CLEARLY HAD NETTLED HIM). HE PROCEEDED TO READ OUT TO ME THE EXACT TEXT OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN DUBLIN. HE SAID THAT HIS REFERENCE TO THE PRAYER OF ALL AMERICANS THAT RECONCILIATION QUOTE WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO THE UNIFICATION UNQUOTE OF IRELAND WAS AN QUOTE OBSERVATION UNQUOTE AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE AN ENUNCIATION OF A NEW POLICY. US POLICY WAS AS DESCRIBED BY THE PRESIDENT. HE HOPED THAT WHEN THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD THE FULL TEXT THEY WOULD SEE THAT HE WAS SIMPLY DESCRIBING WHAT WAS A WIDELY FELT WISH IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. CLARK GAVE A LENGTHY ACCOUNT OF THE WAY THE INTERVIEW HAD GONE AND IN DOING SO WAS OBVIOUSLY EAGER TO EMPHASISE THAT THE MAIN POINT HE WAS TRYING TO ESTABLISH WITH THAT PARTICULAR ANSWER WAS THAT THE US WAS NOT (NOT) CONTEMPLATING ANY NEW INITIATIVE. HE ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD PAISLEY'S REACTION TO HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY MILD.

4. I TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO JUDGE CLARK THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NOURISHING A HOPE THAT ONE DAY IRELAND MIGHT BE UNITED AND MAKING A STATEMENT IN PUBLIC EXPRESSING THIS POINT OF VIEW. REUNIFICATION WAS A HIGHLY DELICATE SUBJECT AND I MENTIONED THE ARTICLE ABOUT IT BY CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN IN THE CURRENT NUMBER OF (THE AMERICAN) HARPER'S. I SAID THAT I WOULD SEND THIS TO JUDGE CLARK AND WOULD HOPE THAT HE WOULD READ IT. HE PROMISED TO DO SO.

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5. I MENTIONED THE LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO DR FITZGERALD WHICH WE HAD HEARD ABOUT IN THE PRESS. JUDGE CLARK SAID HE HAD LEFT A COPY OF THIS LETTER AT THE US EMBASSY IN LONDON AND HAD FELT IT WAS UP TO THEM TO TRANSMIT IT TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE. HE DID NOT THINK THAT IT WAS FOR HIM TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH SUCH MATTERS OF BUREAUCRATIC DETAILS. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE MISTAKE SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED.

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