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FM FCO 101733Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1902 OF 10 DECEMBER

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK, NIO (BELFAST)

INFO ROUTINE OTTAWA

INFO SAVING CONSULS-GENERAL USA, CONSUL-GENERAL TORONTO

YOUR TELNOS 3657, 3658 AND 3699 AND UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 1452:

PAISLEY VISIT TO THE USA

1. MINISTERS HAVE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE HANDLING OF THIS PARTY, WHICH IS NOW TO INCLUDE MRS NORAH BRADFORD. THEY HAVE COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSIONS AS THE PROPOSALS IN YOUR LAST TUR. IN ADDITION WE SHOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF AT ANY STAGE YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WISE TO MAKE IT CLEAR PUBLICLY THAT THE MPS DO NOT REPRESENT HMG AND THAT THEY ARE OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE US AUTHORITIES SHOULD PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SECURITY PROTECTION, BUT WOULD WISH TO AVOID HAVING TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE US GOVERNMENT.
2. WE AGREE (UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 1452) THAT THE VISITORS SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED FROM CALLING ON THE UNITED NATIONS. WE SHOULD PREFER YOU TO ARGUE THAT SUCH A CALL WOULD HARM THE UNIONIST CAUSE RATHER THAN REFER TO THE DAMAGE IT WOULD DO TO HMG OR THE UK AS A WHOLE, SINCE THE LATTER ARGUMENTS ARE UNLIKELY TO CUT MUCH ICE WITH MR PAISLEY.
3. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT MR PAISLEY TELEPHONED MR HURD ON

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/ 8 DECEMBER

8 DECEMBER TO COMPLAIN THAT BURNSIDE AND ALLISTER WERE RECEIVING 'NO CO-OPERATION FROM THE EMBASSY'. HIS PARTY WERE NOT GOING TO THE US TO ATTACK HMG AND HMG'S POLICY, BUT THE IRA. THEY WOULD BE LAUNCHING THERE A NEW BOOK WHICH WOULD SET THE BEST EVER CASE AGAINST THE IRA. HIS AIDES HAD BEEN TRYING TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, PARTICULARLY THE SECRETARIES OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM, BUT HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE AMERICANS THAT THE BRITISH EMBASSY NEEDED TO CLEAR SUCH MEETINGS BEFORE THEY COULD TAKE PLACE. WHEN THE EMBASSY WAS APPROACHED IT HAD SAID THAT IT WAS ONLY ABLE TO DO THIS FOR VISITING MINISTERS. MR PAISLEY SAID THAT HE KNEW OF MPS WHO HAD BEEN HELPED BY THE WASHINGTON EMBASSY. IF THE EMBASSY REALLY WAS UNABLE TO OFFER ANY HELP HE WOULD 'NEED TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE POSITION'.

4. MR HURD SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS. HE KNEW OF THE INTENDED VISIT BUT WAS UNAWARE OF THE DETAILS. HE DID NOT (NOT) SAY THAT HE WOULD CONTACT MR PAISLEY AGAIN.

5. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COMMENTS. WE PROPOSE THAT WE MIGHT TAKE THE LINE THAT BY PUTTING THE VISIT ORGANISERS IN TOUCH WITH CONTACTS THE EMBASSY AND OTHER POSTS ARE OFFERING AS MUCH ASSISTANCE AS WOULD BE NORMAL FOR A DELEGATION OF MPS REPRESENTING A RESTRICTED RANGE OF OPINION IN PARLIAMENT: THAT THE AMBASSADOR WILL WILLINGLY RECEIVE AND BRIEF THEM: BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE EMBASSY TO TAKE A MORE PROMINENT ROLE SINCE THIS WOULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HMG WAS SPONSORING THE VISIT. GIVEN THE PUBLICITY THAT PAISLEY'S RECENT CONTEMPT FOR PARLIAMENT AND VEHEMENT CRITICISM OF HMG HAD RECEIVED IN THE U.S., A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WOULD LOOK STRANGE AND THEREFORE DISCREDIT BOTH EMBASSY AND VISITORS.

6. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BEFORE BRADFORD'S DEATH PAISLEY HAD SOUGHT A MEETING WITH THE LORD PRIVY SEAL TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS VISIT. THE LORD PRIVY SEAL WROTE TO HIM ON 3 DECEMBER ASKING THAT BEFORE AN APPOINTMENT WAS FIXED PAISLEY SHOULD GIVE AN INDICATION OF THE POINTS HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS. NOTHING FURTHER HAS YET BEEN HEARD.

7. WE HAVE JUST SEEN YOUR TEL 3715. THE LINE YOU PROPOSE SEEMS CONSISTENT WITH THE ABOVE.

CARRINGTON

LIMITED

RID
NAD
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MAED
NEWS D
SECURITY D
PUSD
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR HURD
PS/LORD TREFGARNE

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