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FM WASHINGTON 110010Z

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELNO 3758 OF 10 DECEMBER 1981,

INFO PRIORITY: UKMIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK, NIO BELFAST,  
ROUTINE : OTTAWA,

INFO SAVING CONSULS GENERAL U.S.A., CG TORONTO.

YOUR TELNO 1902: PAISLEY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

1. BURNSIDE AND ALLISTER RETURN TO BELFAST TONIGHT OR TOMORROW. THEY HAVE WRITTEN A LETTER TO ME (WHICH I HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED) SETTING OUT THEIR REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY ON SECURITY.

2. I AM SURE THAT, ON THEIR RETURN, BURNSIDE AND ALLISTER WILL COMPLAIN ABOUT THE LEVEL OF HELP RECEIVED. WE MADE IT CLEAR FROM THE START THAT WE WOULD GIVE THEM THE NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF CONTACTS AND WOULD LET THOSE CONTACTS KNOW THEY WERE HERE BUT THAT WE WOULD NOT ACTUALLY ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS. WE HAVE NOW SPOKEN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT PAISLEY AND CO'S REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS, ADDING THAT WE WERE TRANSMITTING THESE REQUESTS AS WE WOULD ANY OTHER MP'S: AND WE HAVE TOLD BURNSIDE THAT WE HAVE DONE SO.

3. WE HAD HEARD FROM BURNSIDE OF MR PAISLEY'S TELEPHONE CALL TO MR HURD. BURNSIDE WENT ON TO SAY THAT MR ATKINS HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE PAISLEY AND HIS COLLEAGUES BEFORE THEIR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. PAISLEY'S PROPOSED VISIT HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE AGITATION IN CONGRESS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SENATOR BAKER (SENATE MAJORITY LEADER), SPEAKER O'NEILL, CONGRESSMAN FOLEY AND SENATORS MOYNIHAN AND KENNEDY HAVE ALL DECIDED NOT TO RECEIVE THE GROUP. O'NEILL, KENNEDY AND MOYNIHAN HAVE WRITTEN TO SECRETARY HAIG ASKING WHETHER PAISLEY'S VISA WILL BE REVOKED, ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE HAS MADE APPEALS TO BIGOTRY AND RELIGIOUS HATRED AND THINLY VEILED EXHORTATIONS TO SECTARIAN VIOLENCE. A LETTER FROM ABOUT 2 DOZEN CONGRESSMEN ASKING HAIG TO REVOKE PAISLEY'S VISA BECAUSE OF HIS "TERRORIST ACTIONS" IS TO BE SENT TOMORROW. O'NEILL AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN PUSHED INTO TAKING THIS STAND BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM EXTREME GROUPS WHO ARE CLAIMING THAT THE SO-CALLED IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS ARE OPERATING A DOUBLE STANDARD: HAPPY TO SEE A VISA DENIED TO CARRON AND EQUALLY HAPPY TO CONDONE THE GRANTING OF A VISA TO CARRON'S PROTESTANT COUNTERPART. THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE IN A QUANDARY AND HAVE NOT YET TAKEN A DECISION WHETHER TO LET PAISLEY IN.

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/ 5. AS REGARDS



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5. AS REGARDS PARA 5 OF TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE, I SUGGEST THAT THE LINE SHOULD BE THAT I (AND CONSULS GENERAL) WILL BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE GROUP AND DISCUSS MATTERS OF BUSINESS WITH THEM: THAT BY PUTTING THEM IN TOUCH WITH CONTACTS WE ARE OFFERING AS MUCH ASSISTANCE AS WOULD BE NORMAL FOR A DELEGATION OF MPS REPRESENTING A RESTRICTED RANGE OF OPINION IN PARLIAMENT; AND THAT THIS COMPLIED WITH WHAT HMG REGARDED AS ITS NECESSARY OBLIGATIONS. IF ASKED WHY WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO GIVE A RECEPTION OR GO FURTHER IN HELPING TO ARRANGE THE VISITORS' PROGRAMME, WE WOULD SAY THAT FOR THE EMBASSY OR CONSULS GENERAL TO TAKE A MORE PROMINENT ROLE WOULD GIVE THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT HMG WAS SPONSORING THE VISIT. IF PRESSED ON THIS POINT, WE WOULD SAY THAT CLOSER INVOLVEMENT ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WOULD GO FURTHER THAN IS USUAL IN A VISIT OF THIS KIND.

6. AT SOME STAGE I THINK YOU WILL HAVE TO GRASP THE NETTLE IN LONDON AND SAY THAT FULFILMENT OF HMG'S OBLIGATIONS DOES NOT REQUIRE US TO PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT OR SPONSORSHIP FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS BITTERLY CRITICISED HMG.

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