

VSA

GRS 300

CONFIDENTIAL PS TO PM. NO 10 DOWNING STREET

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 220040Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 3889 OF 21 DEC 81

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST

PRIORITY DUBLIN BIS NEW YORK

INFO SAVING CGS USA.

M I P T : PAISLEY

1. THE DECISION TO REVOKE PAISLEY'S VISA WAS CLEARLY TAKEN BY JUDGE CLARK THOUGH, ACCORDING TO WHAT HE TOLD ME (MY TELNO 3880) HE HAD THE BACKING OF THE PRESIDENT. FROM ONE OR TWO HINTS THAT HAVE BEEN DROPPED TO US WE SUSPECT THAT, AT OFFICIAL LEVEL, THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION WAS TO LET PAISLEY IN BUT NOT TO RECEIVE HIM AT ANY LEVEL WITHIN THE US GOVERNMENT.

2. PAISLEY WILL NO DOUBT CLAIM THAT THIS DECISION IS A VICTORY FOR THE WILD MEN IN CONGRESS. WHILE CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A MAJOR FACTOR, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WERE ALSO CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT TO ALLOW PAISLEY IN, WEEKS AFTER THEY HAD TURNED DOWN OWEN CARRON, WOULD HAVE PLAYED INTO THE HANDS OF BIAGGI AND WEAKENED THE POSITION OF CONGRESSIONAL MODERATES. THE MODERATES IN TURN HOPE THAT THE FACT THAT HE HAS BEEN DENIED ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES BY A CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION WILL GIVE EVEN MR PAISLEY PAUSE FOR THOUGHT.

3. STATE DEPARTMENT WERE ALSO WORRIED ABOUT THE SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE VISIT. THEY ARE NOW CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RETALIATORY THREATS AGAINST THEIR CONSUL GENERAL IN BELFAST. I BELIEVE THAT THE US EMBASSY IN LONDON WILL BE APPROACHING YOU ABOUT THIS. WE HAVE TOLD THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT WE ARE SURE THAT THE AUTHORITIES IN BELFAST WILL WISH TO RESPOND AS HELPFULLY AS POSSIBLE.

HENDERSON

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