

C O N F I D E N T I A L

43872 - 1

OO DUBLIN DESKBY 081630Z
GRS 380
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 081630Z
FM FCO 081551Z JAN 82
TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 003 OF 8 JANUARY
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST.

YOUR TELEGRAM NO.002 : PROFESSOR DOOGE : VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

1. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY NO OBJECTION TO PROFESSOR DOOGE VISITING HIS RELATIVES, BUT NIO HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WIDER PURPOSES OF HIS VISIT WHICH WOULD INVOLVE VISITS TO POLITICIANS AND CHURCH LEADERS ENTAILING THE PRESENCE OF SENIOR DFA OFFICIALS. GRATEFUL THEREFORE IF YOU WOULD APPROACH THE DFA AT WHATEVER LEVEL YOU THINK APPROPRIATE AND SPEAK IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS.

2. WE WERE GRATEFUL TO BE TOLD OF PROFESSOR DOOGE'S PLANS TO VISIT NORTHERN IRELAND. WE HAVE NO COMMENT TO MAKE ABOUT HIS VISITS TO RELATIVES EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THE RUC WILL BE VERY HAPPY, OF COURSE, TO COOPERATE WITH THE GARDA IN THE USUAL WAY. BUT PROFESSOR DOOGE WILL WISH TO KNOW THAT MR PRIOR, WHO HAS BEEN CONSULTED, HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED TIMING OF THE VISIT, IF PROFESSOR DOOGE INCLUDES DISCUSSIONS WITH POLITICIANS AND IS ATTENDED BY DFA OFFICIALS. MR PRIOR EXPECTS FAIRLY SOON TO TAKE DECISIONS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND. PROFESSOR DOOGE MAY BE AWARE THAT IN PREPARATION FOR THESE DECISIONS MR PRIOR IS CONSULTING WIDELY POLITICIANS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. FOR THE DFA'S CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT SERIES OF SUCH MEETINGS BETWEEN MR PRIOR AND THE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES IS DUE TO BE HELD AT MUCH THE SAME TIME AS PROFESSOR DOOGE PLANS TO BE IN THE NORTH. A VISIT ON THE SCALE AND AT THE TIME PROPOSED

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

43872 - 1

COULD BE REPRESENTED PLAUSIBLY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AS CONCERNED WITH MR PRIOR'S FORTHCOMING POLITICAL MOVES. THE VISIT WOULD IN CONSEQUENCE DRAW PROTESTS WHICH BY THEIR TIMING COULD ONLY BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE VALUE OF THE MEETING BETWEEN PROFESSOR DOOGE AND MR PRIOR IN LONDON A FEW DAYS LATER. HMG, AND ESPECIALLY MR PRIOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND, ARE ANXIOUS AT THE PRESENT STAGE TO ESTABLISH THE NORMALITY OF ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS. MR PRIOR HOPES THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, PROFESSOR DOOGE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEFER VISITS TO POLITICIANS AND CHURCH LEADERS BEYOND AT MOST A DINNER WITH THE LATTER UNTIL SUCH A TIME AS THESE CONTACTS ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE MISINTERPRETED AS INTERVENTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND'S POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS.

CARRINGTON

LIMITED

RID
KAD
INFO DEPT
WED
MAED
NEWS D
SECURITY D
PUSD
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR HURD
PS/LORD TREFGARNE

PS/PUS
SIR A ACLAND

MR ADAMS
MR BULLARD
MR FERGUSSON
LORD N G LENNOX
MR BRAITHEWAITE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN IRELAND

2
CONFIDENTIAL