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FM WASHINGTON 291725Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1014 OF 29 MARCH

AND TO NIO LONDON

INFO NIO BELFAST, C G NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK

PS TO PM. NO 10 DOWNING STREET.

INFO SAVING DUBLIN, OTHER C G'S IN THE USA.

NORTHERN IRELAND: VISIT OF MR PRIOR.

1. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON PLANS FOR THE VISIT WHICH I HOPE MR PRIOR WILL MAKE HERE IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE ON NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, CONGRESS AND THE MEDIA. I RECOMMEND THAT MR PRIOR SHOULD COME AS SOON AS CONGRESS REASSEMBLES AFTER THE EASTER RECESS IE IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 19 APRIL. I UNDERSTAND THAT HE WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO GET AWAY FOR THREE DAYS BUT THAT SHOULD GIVE HIM AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR A WORTHWHILE PROGRAMME CONCENTRATING ON WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. IN WASHINGTON, THE PRINCIPAL TARGETS WOULD BE THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT THE MEDIA. IN NEW YORK, THE MAIN TARGETS WOULD BE THE MEDIA. WE WOULD ALSO TRY TO ARRANGE FOR MR PRIOR TO MEET U.S. INDUSTRIALISTS WITH AN INTEREST OR POTENTIAL INTEREST IN NORTHERN IRELAND. WE WOULD TRY AND FIND OPPORTUNITIES BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK FOR MR PRIOR TO MAKE A SPEECH, WHOSE THEME MIGHT BE POLITICAL IN WASHINGTON AND ECONOMIC IN NEW YORK. GIVEN THAT PRINCESS ALEXANDRA WILL BE HERE FROM 21-23 APRIL, IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR MR PRIOR TO COME TO WASHINGTON BEFORE NEW YORK, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK. ON THE ABOVE BASIS, AN ILLUSTRATIVE PROGRAMME FOR MR PRIOR MIGHT BE AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY 19 APRIL

1515 ARRIVE WASHINGTON (DULLES) ON BA 277. THERE IS NO DIRECT CONCORDE FLIGHT ON THAT DAY.

AFTERNOON POSSIBLE TV/RADIO INTERVIEW
NO FORMAL EVENING ENGAGEMENT

TUESDAY 20 APRIL

MEETINGS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION (WE WOULD SEEK CALLS ON SECRETARY HAIG AND ON JUDGE CLARK)

MEETING WITH THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND GROUP IN CONGRESS; POSSIBLE INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH LEADING CONGRESSMEN. MEETING WITH U.S. LABOUR LEADERS.

?PUBLIC SPEECH EG AT LUNCHTIME

MEETING WITH BRITISH PRESS

DINNER: WE MIGHT AIM AT A SMALLISH DISCUSSION DINNER.

WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL

A.M. FLY TO NEW YORK. MR PRIOR'S PROGRAMME IN NEW YORK WOULD CONSIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS (MOSTLY RADIO AND TV INTERVIEWS, DETAILS OF WHICH WERE SET OUT IN HALL'S TELELETTER TO INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF 5 MARCH). NEW YORK WOULD ALSO PROPOSE TO ARRANGE A LUNCH FOR MR PRIOR TO MEET SENIOR EDITORS AND COMMENTATORS. THERE MIGHT ALSO BE A SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT, PROBABLY IN THE EVENING AND THIS MIGHT HAVE AN ECONOMIC THEME. CG NEW YORK WOULD ALSO ARRANGE FOR MR PRIOR TO MEET U.S. INDUSTRIALISTS (POSSIBLY OVER A MEAL).

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/THURSDAY

THURSDAY 22 APRIL
A.M. ?INTERVIEW ON NETWORK BREAKFAST TV PROGRAMME
1130 DEPART NEW YORK BY BA CONCORDE
1815 (UK TIME) ARRIVE LONDON HEATHROW.

2. NIO HAVE ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF MR NICHOLAS SCOTT WERE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AT THE SAME TIME AS MR PRIOR, BUT VISITING OTHER POSTS. AFTER CONSULTING POSTS WE THINK THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR MR SCOTT TO COME HERE SEPARATELY, SOME TIME AFTER MR PRIOR EG IN CONNEXION WITH THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. WE WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF MAKING AN IMPACT ON THE MEDIA IF WE SPREAD THE EFFORT SO THAT WE HAVE
(A) BRIEFING OF U.S. PRESS: INTERVIEWS ETC CONDUCTED IN LONDON AT THE TIME OF THE INITIATIVE IS LAUNCHED:
(B) VISIT OF MR PRIOR LATER IN APRIL:
(C) VISIT BY MR SCOTT, TAKING IN THE OTHER U.S. POSTS, EG BOSTON AND THE WEST COAST, IN THE AUTUMN.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT A GROUP FROM THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND PLAN TO VISIT THE REPUBLIC AND NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE END OF MAY. THE GROUP WILL PROBABLY BE LED BY TOM FOLEY (THE HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP). OTHER PARTICIPANTS ARE LIKELY TO INCLUDE CONGRESSMAN JIM SHANNON (D-MASSACHUSETTS) AND CHARLES DOUGHERTY (R-PENNSYLVANIA) AND POSSIBLY SENAOR DODD (D-CONNECTICUT). THE GROUP WILL PROBABLY SPEND NO MORE THAN TWO DAYS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (WE HAVE WARNED THEM THAT 31 MAY IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY). THEY WILL WISH TO SPEND TIME WITH HAROLD MCCUSKER (WHOM FOLEY, DODD AND SHANNON KNOW WELL AND LIKE) AND SOME TIME WITH JOHN HUME. THEY ALSO HOPE TO CALL ON MR PRIOR.

FCO PASS SAVING DUBLIN

HENDERSON

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- RID
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- PS
- PS/LPS
- PS/MR HURD

- PS/LORD TREFGARNE
- PS/MR LUCE
- PS/PUS
- MR WRIGHT
- MR GIFFARD
- MR ADAMS
- MR BULLARD
- MR GOODISON
- LORD N G LENNOX
- MR URE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN IRELAND

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]