

IMMEDIATE

PS (6)

PS/S of S Rm 66 A/2 GOGGS

PS/MR HURD

MR WOODFIELD )

PS/PUS

MR BRENNAN )

NIO

SIR J BULLARD

MR ANGEL )

MR GOODISON

MR BOYS SMITH )

IMMEDIATE

HD/RID

SIR R ARMSTRONG )

CABINET OFFICE

HD/PUSD (2)

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3678 OF 12 NOVEMBER 1982

AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST, NIO LONDON

INFO IMMEDIATE BIS NEW YORK

INFO SAVING CGS IN USA, DUBLIN

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MIPT: NORTHERN IRELAND: VISIT OF MR PRIOR

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF IRA GUN-RUNNING AND RELATED CASES IN THE UNITED STATES

GUN-RUNNING

A. THE MEGAHEY/DUGGAN/MEEHAN CASE, DUE TO COME TO TRIAL IN NEW YORK ON 14 FEBRUARY 1983. THE ARREST OF GABRIEL MEGAHEY AND ANDREW DUGGAN ON 21 JUNE 1982 FOLLOWED AN OPERATION IN WHICH BOTH MEN HAD NEGOTIATED WITH AN UNDERCOVER FBI AGENT, POSING AS AN ARMS DEALER, THE PURCHASE OF WEAPONS INCLUDING 5 RED-EYE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES (VALUE 10,000 DOLLARS EACH): AK1BS, MI4S AND M1BS. THE MISSILES WERE TO BE USED AGAINST BRITISH HELICOPTERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. MEGAHEY, AN IRISH CITIZEN, CLAIMED HE WAS THE LEADER OF



MISSILES WERE TO BE USED AGAINST BRITISH HELICOPTERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. MEGAHEY, AN IRISH CITIZEN, CLAIMED HE WAS THE LEADER OF PIRA IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT HE HAD 1 MILLION DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO SPEND ON WEAPONS.

B. COLM AND EAMON MEEHAN (BROTHERS: US CITIZENS) WERE ALSO ARRESTED IN NEW YORK ON 21 JUNE. CHECKS ON MEGAHEY (SEE ABOVE) LED TO THE DISCOVERY ON 27 MAY OF A CONSIGNMENT OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND ELECTRIC COMPONENTS AND REMOTE CONTROL DETONATORS IN A CONTAINER OF BLANKETS AND ROLLER SKATES BEING SHIPPED FROM NEWARK DOCKS TO LIMERICK VIA ROTTERDAM. MOST OF THE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION WERE SEIZED BEFORE SHIPMENT. BUT A SMALL QUANTITY WAS MARKED AND ALLOWED TO BE SHIPPED TO IRELAND WHERE THREE MEN WERE ARRESTED ON 18 JUNE. THE MEEHAN BROTHERS ARE DUE TO BE TRIED WITH MEGAHEY AND DUGGAN NEXT FEBRUARY.

C. THE MURPHY/TONER CASE. A PRE-TRIAL HEARING, TO ESTABLISH THE ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE ETC (NEW YORK TELNO 43) IS BEING HELD TODAY. NEW YORK WILL REPORT THE OUTCOME. INVESTIGATIONS BEGAN IN NOVEMBER 1981 WHEN THREE INLA MEMBERS (GERAD STEENSON TERRY GEORGE AND HARRY KIRKPATRICK) CAME TO NEW YORK ON AN ARMS PURCHASING MISSION DURING WHICH THEY ASSOCIATED CLOSELY WITH COLM MURPHY. MURPHY AND SOME ASSOCIATES INCLUDING VINCENT TONER SUBSEQUENTLY TRIED TO NEGOTIATE THE PURCHASE OF A VARIETY OF WEAPONS INCLUDING 20 M16 AUTOMATIC RIFLES, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SAM MISSILES FOR USE AGAINST BOTH BRITISH AND IRISH SECURITY FORCES.

D. THE MCKEON CASE. IN OCTOBER 1979, 151 WEAPONS ORIGINATING IN THE UNITED STATES WERE FOUND BY THE IRISH POLICE IN DUBLIN DOCKS. SHIPMENT OF THE ARMS WAS TRACED TO AN ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS IN NEW YORK, BELONGING TO BERNARD MCKEON, A NORAIID OFFICE HOLDER WHO HAD ALSO BEEN ACTIVE IN THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS. MCKEON WAS IMPRISONED BRIEFLY IN 1981 FOR REFUSING TO TESTIFY BEFORE A GRAND JURY INVESTIGATING THE SHIPMENT. IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR HE WAS CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE ARMS TO THE IRA, IE THE 1979 SHIPMENT. HIS CASE IS SCHEDULED TO COME TO COURT ON 22 NOVEMBER BUT IS LIKELY TO BE POSTPONED.

2. IN ALL, THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO PIRA HAVING PURCHASED OVER 1,000 WEAPONS IN THE USA OVER THE LAST DECADE (INCLUDING AUTOMATIC RIFLES, CANNON AND FLAME THROWERS). ATTEMPTED PURCHASES INCLUDE SAM MISSILES. MANY OF THESE WEAPONS HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN RECOVERED IN IRELAND (NORTH AND SOUTH). IN ADDITION, LARGE QUANTITIES OF AMMUNITION HAVE BEEN EXPORTED. THE DUBLIN ARMS HAUL OF 1979 ALONE WAS RECKONED TO CONTAIN ENOUGH AMMUNITION (60,000 ROUNDS) TO KEEP PIRA SUPPLIED FOR FIVE YEARS. OVER THE LAST DECADE, THE US AUTHORITIES HAVE BROUGHT PROSECUTIONS AGAINST SOME 40 PEOPLE FOR ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFICKING TO THE IRA. OF THESE 26 HAVE BEEN CONVICTED, WITH CASES PENDING AGAINST 7. THE US IS THUS THE SINGLE BIGGEST SOURCE OF



TRAFFICKING TO THE IRA. OF THESE 26 HAVE BEEN CONVICTED, WITH CASES PENDING AGAINST 7. THE US IS THUS THE SINGLE BIGGEST SOURCE OF PIRA'S MODERN WEAPONS.

#### EXTRADITION

3. WILLIAM JOSEPH QUINN WAS FOUND EXTRADITABLE BY A SAN FRANCISCO COURT ON 29 SEPTEMBER. HE IS WANTED IN BRITAIN FOR THE MURDER OF A BRITISH POLICEMAN AND ON A CHARGE OF CONSPIRING TO CAUSE EXPLOSIONS. QUINN IS IN JAIL PENDING HIS APPEAL AGAINST THE COURT FINDING. HIS LAWYER MUST FILE ON THIS BY 8 DECEMBER.

#### ILLEGAL ENTRY

4. CHARGES OF ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE US ARE STILL OUTSTANDING AGAINST (I) OWEN CARRON MP AND DANIEL MORRISON OF PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN WHO WERE ARRESTED TRYING TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES ILLEGALLY IN JANUARY 1982. BOTH WERE RELEASED ON BAIL AGAINST UNDERTAKINGS TO RETURN TO THE US TO STAND TRIAL. THEIR LAWYERS ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A WRANGLE IN WHICH THE DEPENDENTS CLAIM THAT THEY ARE VICTIMS OF SELECTIVE PROSECUTION. NO EARLY CONCLUSION IS EXPECTED. (II) DESMOND ELLIS. ELLIS, A LEADING PIRA MEMBER, WAS ONE OF 5 MEN ARRESTED ON 6 FEBRUARY 1982 TRYING TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES ILLEGALLY FROM CANADA. THE OTHER FOUR WERE RELEASED ON BAIL. ELLIS DID NOT ATTEMPT TO POST BAIL SINCE HE IS WANTED IN BOTH NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC ON MURDER CHARGES. IF RELEASED ON BAIL HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE EXCLUDED FROM THE UNITED STATES, HIS REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM HAVING BEEN DENIED. ELLIS IS DUE TO STAND TRIAL IN THE UNITED STATES ON ILLEGAL ENTRY CHARGES ON 19 APRIL 1983. IN THE MEANTIME, HIS LAWYERS ARE CONSIDERING BRINGING A CASE FOR SELECTIVE PROSECUTION. THEY ARE ALSO SEEKING JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE PERMANENT EXCLUSION ORDER MADE AGAINST HIM AND OF US DENIAL OF HIS REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. A HEARING ON THIS MAY BE HELD IN BUFFALO ON 22 NOVEMBER. IN PRACTICE, ELLIS IS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN GAOL UNTIL HIS TRIAL.

#### NORAID CASES

5. NORAID HAVE REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH A US COURT ORDER REQUIRING THEM TO NAME THE PROVISIONAL IRA AS THEIR FOREIGN PRINCIPAL UNDER THE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT. IN DEFIANCE OF THE LAW THEY HAVE FILED NO RETURN UNDER THE ACT FOR NEARLY A YEAR. THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ARE PREPARING CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST NORAID. IF SUCCESSFUL, THESE COULD LEAD TO A FINE FOR EVERY DAY THAT PASSES IN WHICH NORAID FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE ACT.

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7. ALL OF THE ABOVE MAY BE USED ON THE RECORD AS NECESSARY.

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THEY WERE... THE DEFENDERS... THE PROSECUTION... THE COURT... THE JURY... THE VERDICT... THE APPEAL... THE FINAL RULING... THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE... THE PROVISIONAL IRA... THE NEWSPAPER... THE CASE... THE RECORD... THE NECESSARY... THE ABOVE... THE MAY BE USED... THE ON THE RECORD... THE AS NECESSARY.

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