

PS (6)

PS/MR HURD

PS/PUS

SIR J BULLARD

MR GOODISON

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HD/RID

HD/PUSD (2)

HD/INFO D

HD/NEWS D

AD/NAD ...

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RESIDENT CLERK (see footnote)

PS/S of S Rm 66 A/2 GOGGS

MR WOODFIELD )

MR BRENNAN )

MR ANGEL )

MR BOYS SMITH )

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SIR R ARMSTRONG )

DIO )

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PS/No 10 DOWNING STREET (2)

NIO

IMMEDIATE

CABINET OFFICE

GRS 450

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 131000Z

FM WASHINGTON 130035Z NOV 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3677 OF 12 NOVEMBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST NIO LONDON

INFO IMMEDIATE BIS NEW YORK

INFO SAVING DUBLIN ALL C G 'S IN THE USA

NORTHERN IRELAND: VISIT OF MR PRIOR.

1. LAST WEEK'S GUN-RUNNING TRIAL IN NEW YORK (MY TELNO 3614) PROVIDED PUBLIC CONFIRMATION FROM THE MOUTHS OF THE ACCUSED THAT THE U S A HAS BEEN USED FOR GUN-RUNNING FOR THE I R A FOR AT LEAST THE LAST 25 YEARS. HARRISON ADMITTED THAT HE HAD BEEN GUN-RUNNING TO THE I R A FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY WHILE FLANNERY (A FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF N O R A I D) TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED MONEY BOTH FOR N O R A I D AND FOR THE I R A.

2. THE CASE HAS SO FAR ATTRACTED RELATIVELY LITTLE PUBLICITY HERE. MR PRIOR'S VISIT WILL PROVIDE A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY, E G IN INTERVIEWS AND AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, TO DRAW ATTENTION TO SOME OF THE FACTS THAT EMERGED IN THE CASE AND TO THE OTHER INDICTMENTS AND FORTH COMING TRIALS INVOLVING GUN-RUNNING OFFENCES. THE AIM MIGHT BE TWO-FOLD.

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- A. TO BRING HOME TO AMERICANS THE SERIOUSNESS OF WHAT IS INVOLVED AND TO UNDERLINE, AND THEREBY REAFFIRM, OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT ILLEGAL GUN-RUNNING WITH ALL THE RESOURCES AT THEIR DISPOSAL AND
- B. TO DEMONSTRATE THAT, WHATEVER THE VERDICT IN THE TRIAL MAY HAVE BEEN, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ARE COMMITTED TO FIGHTING TERRORISM (AND HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN DISRUPTING THE I R A 'S OPERATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES).

3. M I F T CONTAINS A FACTUAL SUMMARY OF THE VARIOUS I R A GUN-RUNNING AND OTHER CASES WITH WHICH WE ARE CURRENTLY DEALING. ALTHOUGH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE DENIED ANY COLLUSION IN THE GUN-RUNNING OPERATION INVOLVING FLANNERY, HARRISON, GEORGE DEMEO ETC, WE CAN EXPECT THE DEFENCE IN FUTURE TRIALS TO DRAW ON THE ALLEGATION ALREADY MADE IN COURT TO CLAIM THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY EITHER COLLUDED IN GUN-RUNNING OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, TURNED A BLIND EYE TO IT. MR PRIOR MIGHT FIND IT HELPFUL, IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH KENNETH DAM, TO SEEK CONFIRMATION (ON WHICH HE COULD DRAW IN SPEAKING TO THE PRESS) THAT THE U.S. IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: REGARDS THE I R A AS AN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANISATION (STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE SO TESTIFIED IN A RECENT EXTRADITION CASE): AND WILL CONTINUE VIGOROUSLY TO OPPOSE THOSE WHO SEEK TO USE U.S. TERRITORY TO FURTHER TERRORISM AND WILL CONSISTENTLY PROSECUTE VIOLATIONS OF U.S. LAW.

4. WHAT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH IN AMERICAN MINDS IS THE LINK BETWEEN THE DOLLAR THAT PEOPLE GIVE AT A PUB OR IN A PARADE AND THE CONSEQUENCES IN TERMS OF HUMAN SUFFERING WHICH MOST OF THEM ABHOR, WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THE USES TO WHICH SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS ARE PUT. TO THE EXTENT THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CITE SPECIFIC INSTANCES WHERE WEAPONS EMANATING FROM THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN USED FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS, THIS WILL HELP BRING HOME THE POINT MOST EFFECTIVELY.

RESIDENT CLERK PLEASE ENSURE COPY OF THIS TELEGRAM AND M I F T REACHES MR PRIORS PRIVATE SECRETARY BEFORE DEPARTURE ON SUNDAY, 14 NOVEMBER.

F C O PASS SAVING DUBLIN

WRIGHT

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