

18 (1)

PS N IRELAND OFFICE - PS TO SEC OF STATE  
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MR MORIATY

MR MARSHALL

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CABINET OFFICE - SIR R ARMSTRONG  
DIO

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

*was not called  
do not as anticipated*

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

RESIDENT CLERK

*serious -*

ADVANCE COPY

GRS 280

CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKMIS GENEVA 301616Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 267 OF 30 JULY 1981

INFO IMMEDIATE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE BELFAST, ROUTINE DUBLIN.

INFO SAVING WASHINGTON AND UKMIS NEW YORK

IMMEDIATE

MIPT

ICRC AND NORTHERN IRELAND

FOLLOWING IS CENTRAL RECOMMENDATION.

BEGINS.

HAVING STUDIED CLOSELY BOTH THE DETAINING AUTHORITIES' AND THE PRISONERS' PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING THE FIVE DEMANDS, AND HAVING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ALSO THE INFORMAL COMMENTS ON THESE WHICH WERE MADE TO ITS DELEGATES BY BOTH SIDES DURING INITIAL CONTACTS, THE ICRC IS OF THE OPINION THAT ONLY MINOR DIFFERENCES EXIST BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AS FAR AS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FIVE DEMANDS IS CONCERNED, BUT THAT A MAJOR DIFFERENCE EXISTS REGARDING THE FORM IN WHICH AGREEMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE MIGHT BE REACHED. THE PRISONERS IN FACT INSIST ON DISCUSSING THE ISSUE DIRECTLY WITH THE DETAINING AUTHORITIES, WHEREAS THE LATTER REFUSE ANY DIRECT NEGOCIATION WITH THE PRISONERS AND ARE ONLY PREPARED TO ISSUE CLARIFICATIONS OF THEIR PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED STATEMENTS ON THE ISSUE.

OF THEIR PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED STATEMENTS ON THE ISSUE.

THE ICRC IS NOT CONCERNED WITH THE REASONS FOR THIS DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS REGARDING THE FORM OF ANY DISCUSSION. BUT, AS A HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION, IT IS PREOCCUPIED BY THE PROLONGED TENSION AND THE RISK OF FURTHER DEATHS OF HUNGER STRIKERS WHICH IT ENTAILS. IT THEREFORE URGES BOTH THE DETAINING AUTHORITIES AND THE PRISONERS TO SPARE NO EFFORTS IN THEIR SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS AND, IN PARTICULAR, FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER. THE ICRC REMAINS AT THE DISPOSAL OF ALL CONCERNED TO ACT AS A HUMANITARIAN INTERMEDIARY.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

MARSHALL

NNNN

SENT AT 30/1655Z MAF/1A

NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES

18 17

PS  
PS/LPS  
PS/PUS  
~~MR BULLARD~~  
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HD/RID  
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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 266 OF 30 JULY 1981

INFO IMMEDIATE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE BELFAST, ROUTINE DUBLIN.

INFO SAVING WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO 254 AND MY LETTER OF 28 JULY TO EYERS (NOT COPIED) :

ICRC AND NORTHERN IRELAND

1. SCHMIDT, WHO LED THE ICRC TEAM TO NORTHERN IRELAND, CALLED ON ME TODAY (30 JULY) TO HAND OVER A MEMORANDUM CONCERNING THE PRISON VISITS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 16 AND 22 JULY. MY IFT CONTAINS THE CENTRAL RECOMMENDATION. FULL TEXT WILL BE SENT BY BAG TOMORROW.
2. SCHMIDT EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM WAS TO GIVE US FORTHWITH THE ESSENCE OF THE REPORT. AS YOU KNOW THE FORMALITIES OF PREPARING THE FULL REPORT WILL TAKE TIME. THE MEMORANDUM WILL FIGURE AS AN ANNEX TO THE REPORT AND HAD THE SAME STATUS I.E. IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL. DECISION AS REGARDS PUBLICATION RESTED WITH HMG.
3. I THANKED SCHMIDT FOR THE MEMORANDUM AND SAID I WOULD FORWARD

3. I THANKED SCHMIDT FOR THE MEMORANDUM AND SAID I WOULD FORWARD IT TO YOU AT ONCE. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION HE SAID THAT GIVING US THE MEMORANDUM WAS NOT PROMPTED BY THE THOUGHT THAT ICRC THEMSELVES MIGHT SUGGEST A FURTHER VISIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE (LAST SENTENCE OF THE EXTRACT IN MY IFT.)

HOWEVER HE DID REFER TO REPORTS THAT MR JERRY ADAMS AND OTHER LEADING REPUBLICANS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO VISIT THE MAZE PRISON YESTERDAY. HE RECALLED THAT THE HUNGERSTRIKERS HAD ASKED FOR MR ADAMS TO BE PRESENT WHEN HE INTERVIEWED THEM. HE HAD REGARDED THIS AS INAPPROPRIATE. HE WAS ALSO AWARE THAT HMG WOULD NOT IN ANY CASE HAVE AGREED TO ADMIT MR ADAMS TO THE PRISON. HE THEREFORE WONDERED WHETHER THIS WAS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF HMG.

4. THE ICRC HAVE ALSO ASKED US FOR THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VERY RECENT LETTER TO SENATOR KENNEDY AND OTHERS IN WHICH THERE IS APPARENTLY A REFERENCE TO THE ICRC.

5. SEE MIFT.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

MARSHALL

NNNNN

SENT AT 30/1643Z MAF