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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NO 1791 OF 11 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO LONDON, NIO BELFAST,

ROUTINE DUBLIN

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NORTHERN IRELAND HUNGER STRIKE

1. CONGRESSMAN BIAGGI IS SEEKING CO-SPONSORS FOR A RESOLUTION ON THE HUNGER STRIKE WHICH HE PLANS TO INTRODUCE IN THE HOUSE TODAY. THE RESOLUTION DEPLORES ALL VIOLENCE, EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN AT THE HUNGER STRIKE AND CALLS ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE GREATER URGENCY AND FLEXIBILITY IN FINDING A HUMANITARIAN SOLUTION.

2. SENATOR KENNEDY'S OFFICE HAVE TOLD US THAT THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND GROUP PLAN TO PRE-EMPT THIS INITIATIVE BY INTRODUCING THEIR OWN RESOLUTION IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE. THIS RESOLUTION CONDEMNS VIOLENCE FROM ALL SIDES IN NORTHERN IRELAND: URGES ALL PARTIES TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR ENDING THE HUNGER STRIKE: URGES THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN ADMINISTERING PRISON RULES IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND TO INVITE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OR OTHER INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EFFORT TO SETTLE THE HUNGER STRIKE: CALLS FOR AN EARLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF BOTH COMMUNITIES: AND CALLS ON THE US GOVERNMENT TO EXPRESS TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT OF THE HUNGER STRIKE AND A LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

3. THIS RESOLUTION THUS GENERALLY REFLECTS THE LINE TAKEN BY THE FOUR HORSEMEN IN THEIR LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT THE HUNGER STRIKE. KENNEDY'S STAFF EMPHASISE THAT THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND ARE CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS, DESPITE CONSTITUENCY PRESSURE, TO TAKE A MODERATE AND RESPONSIBLE LINE AND NOT TO ALLOW BIAGGI TO MAKE THE RUNNING. THEY SAY THAT THE RESOLUTION, IN PARTICULAR THE SUGGESTION OF INVOLVING THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IS INTENDED TO MAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE RESOLUTION, ONCE INTRODUCED, WILL BE REFERRED TO THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN RELATIONS/FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE WHO WILL CONSIDER WHAT, IF ANY, FURTHER ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN. BIAGGI'S AIM IS PROBABLY TO PAVE THE WAY FOR HEARINGS ON NORTHERN IRELAND. THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND DO NOT EXPECT FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN CONGRESS, BUT HOPE THAT THEIR RESOLUTION WILL HELP THE HUNGER STRIKE TO BE BROUGHT TO AN END BEFORE THE CONDITION OF THE NEXT HUNGER-STRIKER BECOMES CRITICAL.

5. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS ACTIVITY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NORTHERN IRELAND WILL BE RAISED DURING THE LORD PRIVY SEAL'S CALLS ON SENATOR PERCY AND CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI ON MONDAY, 15 JUNE. ZABLOCKI HAS RECENTLY JOINED THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND.

HENDERSON

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