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FM DUBLIN 25/1730Z FEB 1981

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 48 OF 25 FEB

AND TO ROUTINE INFO N I O(B) WASHINGTON AND HOLY SEE

YOUR TELNO 29 .

1. I HANDED MESSAGE TO NALLY THIS AFTERNOON, WHO SAID HE WOULD ENSURE THAT THE TAOISEACH GOT IT THIS EVENING. HE THOUGHT THE THE LATTER WOULD CERTAINLY DO WHAT HE COULD TO HELP AS IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE MESSAGE.
2. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF TELLING NALLY THAT ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT COULD HELP WOULD BE IN ENSURING THAT THE CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE PRISONERS THAT THEY WISH TO BE TREATED AS POLITICAL PRISONERS WAS PROPERLY KNOWN. FOR EXAMPLE, I HAD THIS MORNING RECEIVED A SECOND LETTER FROM BISHOP CAHAL DALY (SEE MY LETTERS OF 24 AND 25 FEBRUARY TO WYATT, COPIED TO R I D) IN WHICH HE CLAIMED TO HAVE RELIABLE AND RECENT INFORMATION THAT A COMPROMISE WOULD BE POSSIBLE ON CLOTHING AND WORK. IT SEEMED TO HIM "TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIABLE AND INEXCUSABLE THAT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY BE PLUNGED INTO TENSION , PROBABLY ACCOMPANIED BY SECTARIAN ASSASSINATIONS - MERELY BECAUSE OF QUIBBLES OVER WHAT QUALIFIED AS "PRISON WORK", AND WHAT CONSTITUTES "PRISON CLOTHES". I DID NOT OF COURSE KNOW WHO THE BISHOP'S INFORMANT WAS BUT CLEARLY HE HAD MADE MORE IMPRESSION THAN I HAD WHEN I CALLED ON THE BISHOP ON 6 FEBRUARY AND LEFT WITH HIM A COPY OF MR ATKINS'S STATEMENT OF 5 FEBRUARY . IT WAS IN COUNTERING THIS KIND OF CLEVER MISCHIEF IN WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO LOOK TO THE IRISH FOR HELP.

FIGGG

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