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FM F.C.O. 011835Z SEP 79

TO F L A S H DUBLIN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 107 OF 1 SEPTEMBER.

fs. Pmt 3/9

YOUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH FREE-GORE

VISIT OF IRISH PRIME MINISTER: 5 SEPTEMBER

1. COUNSELLOR, IRISH EMBASSY LONDON TELEPHONED FREE-GORE TODAY (1 SEPTEMBER) TO SAY THAT TAOISEACH HAD SEEN FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN IRISH TIMES TODAY WHICH IMPLIED THAT THE TAOISEACH HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO LONDON BY BRITISH PRIME MINISTER AND WAS TO BE PUT IN THE DOCK OVER SECURITY. TAOISEACH HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ARTICLE AROSE FROM BRITISH OFFICIAL SOURCES. (IN FACT THE ARTICLE SAYS QUOTE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THROUGH THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND OTHER SOURCES, THAT, AS FAR AS BRITAIN IS CONCERNED, THE TAOISEACH, MR LYNCH, IS BEING CALLED TO LONDON NEXT WEEK TO ANSWER FOR THE REPUBLIC'S CULPABILITY NOT ONLY FOR THE MOUNTBATTEN MURDERS BUT FOR THE HANDLING OF SECURITY GENERALLY QUOTE) HE HAD BEEN EXTREMELY ANGRY AND HAD INTENDED TO ISSUE A PRESS STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE HEAD OF A SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT TO GO TO LONDON IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT HE WOULD CANCEL HIS VISIT. HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO DO SO ONLY WHEN HE HAD BEEN MOLLIFIED BY LEARNING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER PLANNED A WORKING LUNCH ON 5 SEPTEMBER AT WHICH COMMUNITY AND OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WOULD BE DISCUSSED, FOLLOWED BY A TETE A TETE AND TALKS WITH MINISTERS/OFFICIALS PRESENT. BUT HE WANTED A STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED BY THE FCO TO SAY THAT AN EARLIER MEETING OF THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY MR LYNCH AND THAT OTHER MATTERS WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN ADDITION TO SECURITY.

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2. COUNSELLOR SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED FREE-GORE THAT FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, TAOISEACH HAD DECIDED TO ISSUE STATEMENT (SEE MIFT) AT 1600 HOURS TODAY. COUNSELLOR SAID STATEMENT HAD BEEN CAREFULLY DRAFTED TO AVOID CAUSING DIFFICULTIES HERE AND THAT TAOISEACH HOPED FOR EXPLICIT CONFIRMATION THAT IN EVENT OF PRESS ENQUIRIES WE WOULD CONFIRM FACTUAL CONTENT OF STATEMENT.

3. FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS AND WITH NO 10 FREE-GORE TOLD COUNSELLOR THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO COMMENT IN LONDON ON A REPORT OF THIS KIND IN IRISH NEWSPAPERS. HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED HOWEVER TO TRANSMIT TO COUNSELLOR TEXT OF A LETTER (SEE MY SECOND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM) DATED TODAY WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS WRITTEN TO THE TAOISEACH ACKNOWLEDGING HIS LETTER OF 30 AUGUST AND WHICH SET OUT HER INTENTIONS FOR THE TIMETABLE OF THEIR TALKS TOGETHER IN LONDON NEXT WEEK. COUNSELLOR WOULD NOTE THAT THE LETTER DEALT WITH THE TWO POINTS WHICH THE TAOISEACH HAD RAISED, IE HIS EARLIER INVITATION AND THE FACT THAT OTHER MATTERS IN ADDITION TO SECURITY WOULD BE DISCUSSED. FREE-GORE SAID THAT FCO SPOKESMEN, IF ASKED, WOULD CONFIRM THE FACTS IN THE TAOISEACH'S STATEMENT.

4. PLEASE CONVEY TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO TAOISEACH OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN DELIVERING TEXT YOU SHOULD SAY THAT PRIME MINISTER IS VERY GLAD THAT MR LYNCH IS ABLE TO COME TO LONDON AND THAT SHE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO INCLUDING EEC AND OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN HER DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM. IF THE QUESTION OF PRESS REPORTS SHOULD COME UP, YOU MAY LIKE TO CONTRAST TONE TO TODAY'S UK PRESS WITH TENDENTIOUS AND INACCURATE ARTICLE IN THE QUOTE IRISH TIMES UNQUOTE. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF IRISH TIMES' STORY STEMMING FROM UK OFFICIAL SOURCES. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD CONFIRM FREE-GORE'S RESPONSE TO COUNSELLOR THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR ANY STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED COMMENTING ON A STORY OF THIS KIND IN AN IRISH NEWSPAPER.

CARRINGTON

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