

GRS 269

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DESKBY 191700Z

FM FCO 191615Z DEC 80

TO IMMEDIATE LISBON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 207 OF 19 DECEMBER

MIPT: FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF MESSAGE.

BEGINS:

1. I WAS ASTONISHED TO LEARN THAT ON 17 DECEMBER THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC PASSED A RESOLUTION ON NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH WILL BE WIDELY SEEN AS INSULTING TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND ESPECIALLY TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WHO HAVE SUFFERED SO GRIEVOUSLY FROM TERRORIST ACTS COMMITTED BY THE PROTESTING PRISONERS AT THE MAZE PRISON AND THE ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH THEY BELONG. I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THIS RESOLUTION HAD THE SUPPORT NOT ONLY OF THE COMMUNISTS BUT ALSO OF THE PARTIES OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE. THE RESOLUTION MAKES ASSERTIONS WHICH ARE DEMONSTRABLY UNTRUE. THE APPALLING CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE PROTESTING PRISONERS HAVE BEEN LIVING HAVE BEEN CREATED BY THEMSELVES IN PURSUIT OF A DEMAND FOR POLITICAL STATUS, A DEMAND WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SUPPORTED BY ANY REPUTABLE ORGANISATION ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. IN PARTICULAR IT HAS NOT RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC OR OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. AND IT HAS BEEN EXPLICITLY REJECTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. YOU WILL HAVE HEARD THAT THE PROTESTING PRISONERS HAVE NOW GIVEN UP A HUNGER STRIKE WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE 27 OCTOBER IN PURSUIT OF THIS DEMAND FOR POLITICAL STATUS. IT IS THE WISH AND HOPE OF HMG THAT THE PROTEST AS A WHOLE WILL BE BROUGHT TO AN END VERY SOON. IF IT IS, THE PRISONERS WILL HAVE EXTENSIVE PRIVILEGES RESTORED TO THEM AND WILL IN FACT BE LIVING IN CONDITIONS WHICH COMPARE FAVOURABLY WITH THOSE IN PRISONS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

END

NORTHERN IRELAND LIMITED
RID PS/MR HURD
NAD PS/MR RIDLEY
INFORMATION D PS/MR BLAKER
WED PS/PUS
MAED SIR A ACLAND
NEWS D CHIEF CLERK
SECURITY D *525* MR ADAMS
PUSD MR BULLARD
PS MR FERGUSSON
PS/LPS LORD N G LENNOX
MR BRAITHWAITE

ADDITIONAL DISTN.
NORTHERN IRELAND

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OO LISBON DESKBY 191645Z

GRS 101

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DESKBY 191645Z

FROM FCO 191615Z DEC 80

TO IMMEDIATE LISBON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 206 OF 19 DECEMBER

YOUR TELS 253 TO 256: NORTHERN IRELAND

1. MIFT GIVES TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM ME WHICH YOU SHOULD DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO FREITAS DO AMARAL. YOU SHOULD GIVE COPIES TO BALSEMAO AND RIBEIRO TELES, AND YOU MAY AT YOUR DISCRETION WRITE IN SIMILAR TERMS TO MARIO SOARES. PLEASE TELEGRAPH AS SOON AS MESSAGE HAS BEEN DELIVERED. WE SHALL THEN BRIEF PRESS ACCORDINGLY, BUT WITHOUT RELEASING TEXT.
2. THE LORD PRIVY SEAL HAS SUMMONED THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR FOR 14.45Z AND WILL SPEAK ON SIMILAR LINES.

*F.a.
with ref tels -
Amd*

NORTHERN IRELAND	LIMITED
RID	PS/MR HURD
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