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GRS 50

CONFIDENTIAL

FM DUBLIN 141550Z JULY 1981

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 239 OF 14 JULY

235 (!)

MY TELNO ~~253~~ : H BLOCKS

THE DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE TOLD MY DEFENCE ATTACHE TODAY THAT ALL THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO HIM SUGGESTED THAT IF DOHERTY DIED, THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC WOULD DETERIORATE MARKEDLY.

2. ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION RECRUITMENT INTO THE I R A IN THE REPUBLIC WAS NOW MUCH GREATER THAN RECRUITMENT INTO THE IRISH ARMY, EVEN THOUGH THE LATTER WERE PAID A SALARY.

FIGG

NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES

16

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IMMEDIATE

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RESIDENT CLERK
GRS 128

SECRET

FM DUBLIN 131130Z JULY 1981

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 235 OF 13 JULY

FOR CHIEF CLERK

HUNGER STRIKE

M

1. IN MY TELNO 231 I POINTED OUT THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC IF KIERAN DOHERTY WERE TO DIE.

2. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT IS NOW MAKING PUBLIC ITS CONCERN. A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN TODAY'S IRISH TIMES QUOTES GOVERNMENT SOURCES AS SAYING "IF KIERAN DOHERTY DIES THE LINE OF HUNGER STRIKE DEATHS MIGHT BE UNSTOPPABLE. THE DEATH OF A T D, FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS, WOULD OPEN THE FLOOD GATES WITH A BY-ELECTION FOUGHT IN THE WORST POSSIBLE ATMOSPHERE." IN COMMENTING ON THIS REPORT SENIOR IRISH OFFICIALS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR PRIVATELY THAT IF DOHERTY DIES WITHOUT H M G BEING SEEN TO MAKE A FURTHER MAJOR EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS, THE IMPLICATIONS FOR ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS WOULD BE SERIOUS.

3. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS. SENIOR GARDA OFFICERS HAVE TOLD US THAT THE DEATH OF DOHERTY COULD MAKE

GARDA OFFICERS HAVE TOLD US THAT THE DEATH OF DOHERTY COULD CAUSE
SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS FOR THE EMBASSY AND MEMBERS OF THE
STAFF. WE ARE EXAMINING WITH THEM ANY ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS
WE MIGHT TAKE.

FIGG

NNNN

SENT AT RECD AT 13/1205Z DH/PEP