

S E C R E T

GR 100
SECRET
DESKBY 170400Z
FM FCO 161932Z APR 81
TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 373 OF 16 APRIL

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR ALEXANDER, PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY, FROM
SANDERS, NO. 10 DOWNING STREET.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE TELL US THAT THEY THINK IT LIKELY THAT
IF SANDS' CONDITION DETERIORATES QUICKLY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, HIS
FAMILY WILL ASK MR. HAUGHEY TO INTERCEDE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.
THEY THINK THAT THIS COULD HAPPEN AT ANY TIME FROM NOW ON. WE WILL,
OF COURSE, LET YOU KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF WE GET AN APPROACH THROUGH
ANY CHANNEL IN LONDON, BUT I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE
POSSIBILITY.

CARRINGTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

LIMITED
RID
PS
PS/LPS
PS/PUS
MR BULLARD
MR FERGUSSON

S E C R E T

OO NEW DELHI

GR 160

SECRET

FM FCO 161446Z APR 81

TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 370 OF 16 APRIL

PERSONAL FOR ALEXANDER, PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY FROM PATTISON, 10
DOWNING STREET

MAZE HUNGER STRIKE

THERE WERE MEDIA REPORTS YESTERDAY THAT SANDS WAS NOW DETERIORATING
FAST. NIO HAVE CHECKED WITH DOCTORS TODAY, IN THE EXPECTATION THAT
THIS WAS MERELY PART OF IRA EFFORTS TO HEIGHTEN TENSION FOR EASTER.
BUT DOCTORS REPORT THAT SANDS IS DETERIORATING UNEXPECTEDLY FAST.
UNLIKE MCKENNA, THERE IS NOT AN EYESIGHT PROBLEM. DOCTORS CONSIDER
THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL GO INTO A COMA OVER THE
WEEK-END, ALTHOUGH NIO SUSPECT THAT THIS FORECAST IS SIMPLY THE
RESULT OF MEDICAL CAUTION.

WHATEVER THE PACE OF SANDS' FURTHER DETERIORATION, IT IS LIKELY TO
BE AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR IN WHAT ALREADY PROMISES TO BE A TROUBLE-
SOME WEEKEND.

CARRINGTON

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