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CONFIDENTIAL ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE

LONDON, WC2A 2LL

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14 November, 1979

I expect to be in a position shortly to announce to Parliament the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions with regard to the matters in the Bingham Report. It is important, from my point of view, that this announcement should not be pre-empted by any Order in Council providing for an amnesty for offences under the sanctions legislation.

Generally, amnesty for offences under United Kingdom law directly affects my responsibilities for prosecutions and no doubt you will be keeping me informed of any proposals to provide for them. But, for the purpose of deciding on the timing of my statement, I would like to know in particular whether there is any intention of submitting an Order providing for an amnesty for sanctions offences within the next two or three weeks.

I have it in mind that I would not make any announcement until the Lancaster House conference is over. If there are other considerations which you wish me to take into account in deciding when to make my statement perhaps you would let me know.

Yours war. Michael.

The Rt Hon The Lord Carrington KCMG MC Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Foreign and Commonwealth Office Downing Street London, SW1A 2AL