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FM F C O 031807Z OCT 79

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1355 OF 8 OCTOBER

INFO SAVING N I O BELFAST.

L.S. [Signature]

YOUR TELNO 3013: ARMS FOR THE RUC

1. THE US AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ME AT HIS REQUEST THIS MORNING, FOLLOWING AN EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH FERGUSSON WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN BREWSTER'S TALK WITH VEST, RECORDED IN TEL UNDER REFERENCE.
2. BREWSTER IS CLEARLY THINKING OF TAKING A PERSONAL INITIATIVE, BUT FIRST HE WISHED TO BE SURE THAT NOTHING IN MY PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH THE US SECRETARY OF STATE MADE IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO TAKE UP THE CUDGELS. I EXPLAINED THAT DURING THE TALK ON 24 SEPTEMBER I HAD STRESSED THE EXPLOSIVE REACTIONS WHICH THERE MIGHT BE ON THE PART OF U.N. PUBLIC OPINION IF THE BAN ON ARMS WERE MAINTAINED. MR VANCE HAD INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THIS AND IT WAS LEFT, AS YOU KNOW, THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION WOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN YOU AND MR VANCE. I WENT ON TO TELL BREWSTER OF THE UNDERSTANDING WHICH YOU HAD RECEIVED FROM VEST THAT VANCE'S ANSWER WAS STILL NEGATIVE. BREWSTER QUALIFIED THIS BY SUGGESTING THAT THE ANSWER WAS TEMPORARILY, RATHER THAN PERMANENTLY, NEGATIVE. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE CONJUNCTION OF RECENT EVENTS - THE MOUNTBATTEN MURDER, THE POPE'S VISIT, AND THE POSITIVE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING BETWEEN IRISH MINISTERS AND MR ATKINS - IT WOULD BE WORTH HIS REOPENING THE ISSUE. HE WAS THINKING OF PROPOSING A SOLUTION ON THE LINES OF THE FALL-BACK POSITION IN MY BRIEF FOR NEW YORK, A COPY OF WHICH YOU SHOULD HAVE, THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT REVIEW SHOULD BE TO CONFIRM ORDERS IN THE PIPELINE (I.E. THE SECOND TRANCHE OF 3000 REVOLVERS, TOGETHER WITH SPARE PARTS, AMMUNITION, ETC FOR THE FIRST TWO TRANCHES AS NECESSARY) ON THE INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ORDER FOR THE THIRD TRANCHE WOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL LATE IN 1980. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO GO AHEAD ON THAT BASIS, I DREW HIS ATTENTION SPECIFICALLY TO THE REFERENCE,

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IN PARA 4 OF THE COMMUNIQUE OF 5 OCTOBER FOLLOWING MR ATKINS' MEETING WITH IRISH MINISTERS IN LONDON, TO THE CALL FOR AID AND ASSISTANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON EACH SIDE OF THE BORDER TO THE GARDA AND THE RUC IN THEIR COMMON TASK OF PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY.

CARRINGTON

FILES

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SIR. A. DUFF

MR BULLARD

MR FERLUSON

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MR WHITMORE, NO 10 DOWNING ST

SIR. J. HUNT, CABINET OFFICE.

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