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DD 181500Z WASHINGTON  
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DESKBY 181500Z  
FM FCO 181200Z AUG 83  
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1370 OF 18 AUGUST  
AND TO IMMEDIATE BIS NEW YORK  
INFO PRIORITY DUBLIN

NORTHERN IRELAND: POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF IRISH/AMERICAN VISITORS

1. EVENTS DURING THE RECENT NORAIID VISIT, TOGETHER WITH POLITICAL AND PRESS REACTIONS TO IT, HAVE PROMPTED THE NIO AND HOME OFFICE TO CONSIDER THE PRACTICALITY AND DESIRABILITY OF TAKING STEPS UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ACT TO KEEP OUT ONE R MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE:

(A) MICHAEL FLANNERY AND HIS CO-DEFENDANTS IN LAST YEAR'S GUNRUNNING TRIAL, WHO HAVE OPENLY ADMITTED THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN GUNRUNNING TO PIRA (AND A FORTIORI THOSE CONVICTED OF GUNRUNNING):

(B) NAMED LEADING FIGURES IN NORAIID, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES (FUND-RAISING FOR A PROSCRIBED ORGANISATION), IF CARRIED OUT IN THE UK, WOULD BE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE:

(C) ANY MEMBER OR REPRESENTATIVE OF NORAIID.

2. THERE ARE VARIOUS LEGAL AND TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE FACT THAT MOST SUCH VISITORS WOULD ARRIVE IN NORTHERN IRELAND ACROSS THE LAND BORDER WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS WHICH MAY REQUIRE DISCUSSION WITH THE IRISH. THE SITUATION WILL BE FURTHER COMPLICATED IF ANY OF THEM HAVE OR COULD CLAIM IRISH (OR EVEN UK) CITIZENSHIP.

3. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR:

(A) AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY US REACTION TO THE HOME SECRETARY CERTIFYING INDIVIDUALS IN EACH OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES AS PEOPLE WHOSE PRESENCE IN THE UK WOULD NOT BE CONDUCTIVE TO THE PUBLIC GOOD, THEREBY RENDERING THEM LIABLE TO DEPORTATION IF THEY ENTERED THE UK, TOGETHER WITH ANY VIEWS YOU MAY HAVE

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ON HOW SUCH STEPS COULD BE PUBLICLY PRESENTED:

(B) YOUR VIEWS ON WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DRAW UP SUFFICIENTLY WATER-TIGHT DEFINITIONS OF EACH OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES AND PRODUCE COMPREHENSIVE LISTS OF THE PERSONS IN THEM.

4. IT IS RUMOURED THAT FLANNERY MAY VISIT NORTHERN IRELAND IN SEPTEMBER AND NIO WOULD IN ANY EVENT LIKE TO ADVANCE THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES. GRATEFUL FOR COMMENTS DESKBY 0900Z ON 22 AUGUST.

5. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD OBTAIN DETAILS OF FLANNERY'S TRAVEL PLANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WHITNEY

NORTHERN IRELAND

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