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 TO PRIORITY F C O
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 3047 OF 14 OCTOBER 1981
 INFO NIO LONDON, NIO BELFAST, BIS NEW YORK.

NORTHERN IRELAND, DAILY EXPRESS COMMENT ON THE FOUR HORSEMEN.

1. TODAY'S DAILY EXPRESS ARTICLE ACCUSING THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE IRA NAIL BOMBING HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY THE PRESS HERE. THE FOUR HORSEMEN THEMSELVES ARE HOPPING MAD, PARTICULARLY SPEAKER O'NEILL, WHO HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT (TEXT IN MIFT) WHICH DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF 14 MAY IN WHICH SHE SAID "I WELCOME YOUR CLEAR RESTATEMENT OF YOUR UNEQUIVOCAL CONDEMNATION OF ALL VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. I WELCOME TOO YOUR EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE MEN OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHER IRELAND AND TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND".

2. THE ARTICLE IS OF COURSE INACCURATE: WHILE SOME OF MAYOR KOCH'S STATEMENTS MIGHT, BY IMPLICATION, HAVE ENCOURAGED SUPPORT FOR NORAI, THE FOUR HORSEMEN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UNEQUIVOCAL IN URGING AMERICANS NOT TO GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE PROVISIONAL IRA.

3. IRKSOME AS THEY OFTEN ARE, THE FOUR HORSEMEN HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY TRIED TO DISCOURAGE THE FLOW OF MONEY TO THE PROVISIONALS. IT WOULD BE UNHELPFUL IF THEY WERE TO FEEL THAT THE ONLY RESULT OF THEIR EFFORTS WAS TO BE TARRED BY THE BRITISH PRESS WITH THE SAME BRUSH AS BIAGGI AND HIS COHORTS. IF YOU ARE ASKED FOR ANY COMMENT ON THE DAILY EXPRESS PIECE IT WOULD THEREFORE BE VERY HELPFUL IF THE LINE TAKEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN HER LETTER OF 14 MAY COULD BE REAFFIRMED. THE SAME POINT MIGHT BE MADE IN BRIEFING U.S. CORRESPONDENTS IN LONDON.

PLEASE ADVANCE TO RID, NIO AND NO 10 DOWNING STREET.

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