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UNCLASSIFIED

FM WASHINGTON 220030Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3888 OF 21 DECEMBER 1981,

INFO IMMEDIATE N I O BELFAST,

INFO PRIORITY DUBLIN, B I S NEW YORK,

INFO ROUTINE C G NEW YORK,

INFO SAVING C GS U S A.

MY TELNO 3880 (NOT TO ALL): PAISLEY

1. STATE DEPARTMENT MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT EARLIER TODAY:

"BECAUSE OF OUR GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE DIVISIVE TONE OF MR PAISLEY'S ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS IN RECENT WEEKS, THE DEPARTMENT INITIATED A REVIEW ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANYTHING MR PAISLEY HAD SAID OR DONE RECENTLY HAD MADE HIM INELIGIBLE FOR A VISA UNDER OUR LAWS. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT MR PAISLEY'S PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES IS PREJUDICIAL TO THE U S PUBLIC INTEREST AND HIS VISA HAS BEEN INVALIDATED. THIS OBVIOUSLY MEANS THAT HE MAY NOT ENTER THE UNITED STATES".

2. ASKED WHAT MR PAISLEY HAD SAID OR DONE WHICH HAD MADE HIM INELIGIBLE FOR A VISA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY OF THE SPECIFIC STATEMENTS THAT HE MADE, BUT THE OVERALL JUDGMENT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SQUARE BRACKETS BEGIN JUDGE CLARK SQUARE BRACKETS END IS THAT HIS PRESENCE HERE WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE U S PUBLIC INTEREST".

3. STATE DEPARTMENT ARE MAKING CLEAR THAT THE EXCLUSION APPLIES ONLY TO PAISLEY AND NOT TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED WHETHER WE WERE CONSULTED ABOUT THE DECISION BUT PROPOSE TO TAKE THE LINE THAT, WHILE THE U S AND U K AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN IN TOUCH ABOUT MR PAISLEY'S VISIT, THE QUESTION OF A VISA WAS A MATTER FOR DECISION BY THE U S GOVERNMENT. THEY SAY THAT THEY RECOGNISE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO OFFER ANY COMMENT ON H M G'S ATTITUDE.

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4. BOTH SPEAKER O'NEILL AND SENATOR KENNEDY HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS SAYING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION. O'NEILL SAID THAT, WHILE IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE U S GOVERNMENT TO ADVOCATE A PARTICULAR SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN IRELAND, IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR THE U S GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT A PEACEFUL, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AND TO OPPOSE THE USE OF VIOLENCE. PAISLEY WAS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE U S WAS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO GIVE HIM ACCESS TO A FORUM FOR HIS VIEWS IN AMERICA. CONGRESSMAN CARNEY (THE MEMBER OF BIAGGI'S COMMITTEE WHO ORGANISED A LETTER, SIGNED BY 109 OF HIS COLLEAGUES, URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO REVOKE PAISLEY'S VISA) IS CLAIMING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION HAS BEEN MADE IN RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE.

5. SEE M I F T.

HENDERSON.

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