

Ireland

PS TO PM. NO 10 DOWNING STREET.

CONFIDENTIAL

42882 - 1

Prime Minister

*WR
31/12*

GRS 191
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 301733 DEC 81
TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2003 OF 30 DECEMBER
AND TO PRIORITY BIS NEW YORK
MY TELEGRAM NO.43 TO BIS NEW YORK : SPEAKING TOUR OF MR AUSTIN
CURRIE

1. IN VIEW OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF MR PAISLEY'S VISA, MR PRIOR FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR HMG TO SPONSOR A MODERATE UNIONIST ON A VISIT TO THE US, AND THAT MR CURRIE'S VISIT SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL EARLY SUMMER UNLESS A COMPARABLE VISIT CAN BE ARRANGED EARLIER IN THE YEAR. WE CONSIDER SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE GENERALLY HELPFUL.
2. NIO WILL THEREFORE TRY TO SET UP A VISIT IN THE NEW YEAR, TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE MR CURRIE'S VISIT, IE. CONCLUDING BEFORE 8 MACCH. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO FIND THE RIGHT CANDIDATE. NIO ARE CONSIDERING HAROLD MCCUSKER MP (BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE COULD GO) AND JOHN CARSON, FORMER LORD MAYOR OF BELFAST. THE VISIT CAN BE PAID FOR FROM OFFICIAL FUNDS THOUGH IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF A WILLING HOST, AS IN MR CURRIE'S CASE, COULD BE FOUND TO FINANCE SUBSISTENCE COSTS.
3. BEFORE NIO MAKE ANY APPROACHES AND CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS TO MR CURRIE, GRATEFUL FOR YOUR VIEWS ON WHETHER YOU AND BIS COULD ARRANGE A SUITABLE PROGRAMME.

CARRINGTON

LIMITED
 RID
 KAD
 INFO DEPT
 WED
 MAED
 NEWS D
 SECURITY D
 PUSD
 PS
 PS/LPS
 PS/MR HURD
 PS/LORD TREFGARNE

PS/FUS
 SIR A ACLAND
 MR ADAMS
 MR BULLARD
 MR FERGUSSON
 LORD N G LENNOX
 MR BRAITHWAITE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
 NORTHERN IRELAND

CONFIDENTIAL