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FM URMIS NEW YORK 062030Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O.

TELEGRAM NUMBER 17 OF 6 JANUARY 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, NIO BELFAST, NIO LONDON,
INFO DUBLIN, OTTAWA, TORONTO.

WASHINGTON TELNO 27: PAISLEY

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

1. URQUHART TELEPHONED LATE YESTERDAY (5 JANUARY) TO SAY THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAD JUST RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM PAISLEY'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE US (BUTTRAM) ASKING FOR AN APPOINTMENT ON 27 OR 28 JANUARY TO DISCUSS NORTHERN IRELAND. URQUHART, WHO IS FULLY AWARE OF THE UNDESIRABILITY OF SUCH A MEETING, ASKED FOR THE BACKGROUND AND FOR ANY THOUGHTS WE MIGHT HAVE ABOUT HOW THE SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD RESPOND. WE HAVE TOLD HIM THE BACKGROUND BUT HAVE SAID THAT WE CANNOT OFFER ADVICE ON HOW THE SECRETARY GENERAL MIGHT REPLY UNTIL WE HAVE OBTAINED INSTRUCTIONS FROM YOU. URQUHART'S INITIAL REACTION IS THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL COULD DECLINE TO RECEIVE PAISLEY HIMSELF BUT THAT IT WOULD BE VERY

DECLINE TO RECEIVE PAISLEY HIMSELF BUT THAT IT WOULD BE VERY AWKWARD FOR HIM NOT TO OFFER INSTEAD A MEETING WITH A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF, PROBABLY DUFFUM, THE USG RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS WOULD APPLY IF A REQUEST WERE TO BE MADE BY THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNIONIST DELEGATION, GIVEN THAT THEY INCLUDE AN MP AND AN MEP.

2. I HAD HOPED THAT, FOR THE REASONS GIVEN IN MY TELNO 1452 OF 1981, THE UN ASPECTS OF A VISIT BY PAISLEY AND/OR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAD DIED AWAY AND THAT EVEN THE MOST EXTREME UNIONISTS WOULD SEE THAT INVOLVEMENT OF THE UN IN NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD DAMAGE THEIR OWN INTERESTS. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH PAISLEY HAS REVIVED THE IDEA OF A CALL AT THE UN AS A PLOY TO CIRCUMVENT THE AMERICAN CANCELLATION OF HIS VISA. ARTICLE IV, SECTION 11 (5) OF THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND THE UN PROVIDES THAT THE UNITED STATES SHALL NOT IMPOSE ANY IMPEDIMENTS TO TRANSIT TO OR FROM NEW YORK OF, AMONGST OTHERS, "PERSONS INVITED ... BY THE UNITED NATIONS ... ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS". THE US MISSION TELL US THAT TERZI (THE PLO OBSERVER), THE REV MICHAEL SCOTT AND SEAN MCBRIDE ARE THE EXTANT CASES OF ADMISSIONS UNDER THIS SUB-SECTION. ALL HAD BEEN INVITED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR UN COMMITTEES. ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN TESTED IN THE PAST, THE US MISSION THINK THAT THE OFFER OF AN APPOINTMENT WITH SOMEONE IN THE SECRETARIAT WOULD NOT AMOUNT TO AN "INVITATION" UNDER SECTION 11 (5) BUT THAT IF THE SOMEONE WAS THE SECRETARY GENERAL HIMSELF, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO REFUSE ADMISSION.

3. IT REMAINS MY VIEW THAT IT IS EXTREMELY DESIRABLE TO PREVENT PAISLEY OR FOR THAT MATTER ANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES FROM APPEARING AT THE UN. EVEN IF THEY WERE SEEN BY ONLY A MORE JUNIOR OFFICIAL, THEIR VISIT WOULD GENERATE PUBLICITY AND PROVOKE REQUESTS FOR SIMILAR ACCESS FROM THE PIRA AND THEIR SUPPORTERS. THIS WOULD LEAD TO AN INCREASED RISK OF NORTHERN IRELAND BEING INTRODUCED INTO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN FEBRUARY/MARCH AND/OR THIS YEAR'S MEETINGS OF ECOSOC AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. BUT TO JUDGE FROM URQUHART'S INITIAL REACTION IT WOULD NOT BE EASY FOR US TO PERSUADE PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO TURN PAISLEY DOWN FLAT. EVEN IF WE SUCCEEDED, THE SECRETARIAT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY FIND IT NECESSARY AT SOME STAGE TO REVEAL THAT IT WAS AT OUR REQUEST THAT THEY HAD REFUSED A MEETING. I IMAGINE THAT SUCH A REVELATION COULD HAVE WIDE REPERCUSSIONS IN BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

4. IT SEEMS TO ME THEREFORE THAT OUR BEST HOPE LIES IN EARLY AND DEFINITIVE REJECTION BY THE AMERICANS OF PAISLEY'S RENEWED

~~AND DEFINITIVE REJECTION BY THE AMERICANS OF PAISLEY'S RENEWED~~
APPLICATION AND THAT MEANWHILE THE SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD BE
DISCOURAGED FROM AGREEING TO SEE HIM HIMSELF, THE U THANT PRECEDENT
NOTWITHSTANDING. IF THE AMERICAN REJECTION COULD BE DONE QUICKLY
ENOUGH, THE UN MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO AVOID REPLYING TO PAISLEY
AT ALL. IT IS MORE LIKELY, THOUGH, THAT THEY WOULD FEEL THAT, IF
ONLY OUT OF COURTESY, THEY HAD TO SAY THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL
WAS UNABLE TO RECEIVE HIM BUT THAT HAD HE BEEN ABLE TO VISIT
NEW YORK HE COULD HAVE SEEN AN OFFICIAL IN THE SECRETARIAT. THIS
INVITATION MIGHT THEN BE TAKEN UP BY ROBINSON, TAYLOR, ET AL.
IN THAT CASE, I WOULD HOPE THAT, ONCE IT WAS CLEAR THAT PAISLEY'S
PLOY HAD FAILED, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARTY COULD BE PERSUADED
THAT A CALL AT THE UN WOULD SEVERELY DAMAGE THEIR OWN INTERESTS
AND THAT THEY SHOULD THEREFORE ABANDON THE IDEA.

PARSONS

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[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]