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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELNO 144 OF 18 JANUARY 1982,

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, CG NEW YORK, NIO BELFAST, NIO LONDON,  
DUBLIN, OTTAWA, TORONTO.

SAVING TO OTHER CG'S U.S.A.

MY TELNO 111: PAISLEY

1. THE DUP/OUN DELEGATION ARE NOW IN WASHINGTON. MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION HAVE APPEARED ON TWO OF THE MAJOR BREAKFAST TV SHOWS (WITH PAISLEY JOINING IN FROM TORONTO). THE DELEGATION WERE GUESTS AT A NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCH TODAY AT WHICH MRS PAISLEY READ OUT THE SPEECH WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BY HER HUSBAND. THE OCCASION WILL RECEIVE WIDESPREAD TV AND RADIO COVERAGE. ROBINSON RECEIVED APPLAUSE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 120 WHEN HE BEGGED AMERICANS NOT TO SEND DOLLARS WHICH WERE ENABLING TERRORISTS TO KILL INNOCENT BRITISH SUBJECTS WITH WEAPONS SUPPLIED BY THE COMMUNIST BLOC. ROBINSON AND TAYLOR LAID GREAT STRESS ON THE IRA'S LINKS WITH OTHER TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS SAYING THAT MR HURD HAD RECENTLY CONFIRMED CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE IRA AND THE PLO. THE DELEGATION MADE AVAILABLE COPIES OF THEIR BOOKLET "ULSTER THE FACTS" CONTAINING GRUESOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF IRA ATROCITIES. THE BOOK WAS BRIEFLY IMPOUNDED BY US CUSTOMS AT THE WEEKEND ON A TECHNICALITY. WE TOOK THIS UP WITH STATE DEPARTMENT AND ALL COPIES HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED.

2. THE DELEGATION CALLED ON ME AT THEIR REQUEST THIS AFTERNOON. MEMBERS OF MY STAFF WERE ALSO PRESENT. THEY WERE AT PAINS TO SAY THAT THEIR VISIT WAS NOT DESIGNED TO BE CRITICAL OF HMG (THOUGH AT LUNCH ROBINSON HAD ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF PURSUING A POLICY OF UNIFICATION BY STEALTH). THEY THOUGHT THAT MORE SHOULD AND COULD BE DONE BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO PUT ACROSS THE UNIONISTS' CASE IN THE US AND CLEARLY BELIEVED THAT THE IRA HAD HAD A FREE RUN. I TOLD THEM THAT WE PUT ACROSS OUR CASE VIGOROUSLY AND CONTINUOUSLY AND THAT WE HAD HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN SECURING GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM.

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3. THE DELEGATION, WHO HAVE CLEARLY NOT BEEN ABLE TO SECURE MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS EITHER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OR CONGRESS, ASKED US FOR HELP, BEHIND THE SCENES, IN TRYING TO SECURE APPOINTMENTS. I SAID THAT THE DELEGATION THEMSELVES HAD WANTED TO AVOID GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP. WE HAD ALREADY TOLD THE ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ABOUT THEIR VISIT. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE A FURTHER WORD WITH ONE OR TWO CONTACTS SIMPLY TO REMIND THEM THAT THE DELEGATION WERE IN THE UNITED STATES. TAYLOR, AS AN MEP, IS PARTICULARLY KEEN TO SEE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN SUBCOMMITTEE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF A POSSIBLE CALL ON THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL OR HIS STAFF.

4. THE DELEGATION WERE INTERVIEWED BY BRITISH NEWS MEDIA AS THEY LEFT THE EMBASSY. BBC TV WILL BE FOLLOWING THEM ON THEIR TRAVELS IN THE UNITED STATES (ITINERARY IN MY TELNO 1 TO CG NEW YORK). THE DELEGATION WILL CLEARLY GET MORE COVERAGE AT HOME THAN IN THE UNITED STATES THOUGH EVEN HERE, HELPED BY PAISLEY'S AVAILABILITY IN TORONTO, THEY HAVE ALREADY SECURED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE.

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