

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 032254Z MAR 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 713 OF 3 MARCH
AND TO NIO LONDON
INFO DUBLIN

PS TO PM. NO 10 DOWNING STREET.

NORTHERN IRELAND: ST PATRICK'S DAY

1. PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS RENEWED HIS INVITATION TO THE IRISH PRIME MINISTER (WHOEVER HE MAY BE) TO VISIT WASHINGTON ON ST PATRICK'S DAY. WHETHER OR NOT THE TAOISEACH IS HERE, 17 MARCH WILL BE THE OCCASION FOR A STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THERE IS BOUND TO BE SOME REFERENCE TO NORTHERN IRELAND. WE KNOW THAT SOME OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISERS WOULD LIKE HIM TO CONDEMN NORAID BY NAME (SOMETHING HE DID NOT DO WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE IRISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY LAST YEAR, PARTLY BECAUSE OF LOBBYING BY NORAID AND ITS SUPPORTERS). MR REAGAN'S OWN ATTITUDE TO TERRORISM, THE US AUTHORITIES' RECENT SUCCESS IN ARRESTING PIRA ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, THE FAILURE OF PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN CANDIDATES IN THE IRISH ELECTION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS SHOULD ALL HELP TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE A TOUGHER PUBLIC STAND ON IRA AND NORAID.

2. IT IS ALWAYS EASIER FOR THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE VAGUE AND GENERAL STATEMENTS ABOUT IRELAND THAN TO RISK TROUBLE FROM IRISH-AMERICAN GROUPS BY SAYING THINGS UNPALATABLE TO THEM. I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE THE ADMINISTRATION TO GO BEYOND GENERAL CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE IN THIS YEAR'S ST PATRICK'S DAY STATEMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE, I SHOULD LIKE TO URGE ON THEM THE NEED FOR MORE EXPLICIT CONDEMNATION OF THE PIRA (AND INDEED OF NORAID). I PROPOSE TO CALL ON EITHER STOESSEL OR EAGLEBURGER AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE THIS POINT. I HAVE IT IN MIND ALSO TO TRY TO FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THIS WITH CLARK AND TO GIVE HIM A COPY OF THE RECENT PAPER ABOUT PROVISIONAL IRA LINKS WITH OTHER TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS WHICH WAS PREPARED AT BULLARD'S REQUEST AND HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO EAGLEBURGER.

3. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WOULD HELP GREATLY IF, IN DOING SO, I COULD ALSO GIVE SOME ACCOUNT OF MR PRIOR'S THINKING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED NORTHERN IRELAND INITIATIVE. I SHOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO TELL STOESSEL AND CLARK THAT MR PRIOR HAD ASKED ME, ON HIS BEHALF, TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIS THINKING, INCLUDING HOW WE PLAN TO SAFEGUARD MINORITY INTERESTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. I WOULD NOT NEED TO GO INTO ANY DETAIL. BUT ANY INDICATION I COULD GIVE OF OUR INTENTIONS WOULD, I AM SURE, BE HELPFUL IN GETTING THE RIGHT KIND OF RESPONSE. IN ORDER TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF INFLUENCING WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE SAY, I SHOULD NEED TO SEE THOSE CONCERNED IN THE ADMINISTRATION NOT LATER THAN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK (9 OR 10 MARCH).

CONFIDENTIAL

/H. AS YOU

CONFIDENTIAL

4. AS YOU KNOW, I HOPE THAT MR PRIOR WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES SHORTLY AFTER PUBLICATION OF OUR INITIATIVE TO EXPLAIN OUR THINKING AND POLICIES TO THE ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESS ETC.

HENDERSON

LIMITED

RID
NAD
INFO D
WED
MAED
NEWS D
SECURITY D
FUSD
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR HURD

PS/LORD TREFGARNE
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
MR DAY
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
MR BULLARD
MR GOODISON
LORD N G LENNOX
MR URE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN IRELAND

2
CONFIDENTIAL