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FM WASHINGTON 282206Z AUG 84
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2540 DATED 28 AUGUST
INFO NIO BELFAST, DUBLIN, BIS NEW YORK, CG NEW YORK.
INFO SAVING OTHER CG'S IN USA.

MY TELNO 2452: GALVIN INCIDENT, BELFAST, 12 AUGUST.

SUMMARY.

1. BIAGGI TO HOLD A 'HEARING' ON THE RECENT NORAID VISIT.
LOW-KEY APPROACH ADVISED.

DETAIL.

2. CONGRESSMAN MARIO BIAGGI HAS WRITTEN TO INFORM ME THAT HIS AD HOC COMMITTEE ON IRISH AFFAIRS WILL HOLD A HEARING ON 6 SEPTEMBER TO REVIEW 'THE RECENT VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND'. ALTHOUGH BIAGGI DOES NOT MENTION NORAID, GALVIN IS BILLED AS A WITNESS. BIAGGI INTENDS TO READ INTO THE RECORD MY LETTER TO HIM OF 6 AUGUST FOLLOWING HIS PROTEST AGAINST THE HOME SECRETARY'S EXCLUSION ORDER. BIAGGI GOES ON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS FROM US WHICH COULD BE PRESENTED AT THE HEARING.

3. BIAGGI'S COMMITTEE HAS NO FORMAL STANDING. ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMS A MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 100, HE CAN GENERALLY COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF ONLY A DOZEN OR SO MEMBERS FOR HIS INITIATIVES. MEETINGS ORGANISED BY BIAGGI OR THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS ARE GENERALLY NOT WELL ATTENDED. BIAGGI HAS NOT RECENTLY HELD A 'HEARING'. HE HELD A 'SPECIAL MEETING' IN JUNE 1982 ON PLASTIC BATON ROUNDS. IT DID NOT ATTRACT MUCH PUBLICITY.

4. BIAGGI, NORAID AND OTHERS WILL NO DOUBT TRY TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE 'HEARING'. CONGRESS IS STILL THIS WEEK IN RECESS AND OUR NORMAL CONTACTS IN THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND'S OFFICES ARE NOT AVAILABLE. BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD WISH TO PLAY THIS IN A LOW KEY. THERE IS NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN BIAGGI AND THE MORE MODERATE IRISH-AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP. THE IRISH EMBASSY SHARE OUR VIEW THAT WE SHOULD DO NOTHING TO DRAMATISE OR DIGNIFY THIS DEVELOPMENT. NEITHER WE NOR THE

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IRISH EMBASSY INTEND TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE HEARING. BIAGGI WILL BE INVITING STATE DEPARTMENT TESTIMONY. IT IS, HOWEVER, UNLIKELY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL AGREE FORMALLY TO APPEAR, ALTHOUGH THEY MIGHT SEND THE DESK OFFICER TO WATCH THE PROCEEDINGS. I INTEND TO SEND A BRIEF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BIAGGI, NOTING HIS INTENTION TO READ INTO THE RECORD MY LETTER TO HIM ABOUT GALVIN'S EXCLUSION BUT DECLINING HIS INVITATION TO PRESENT ANY FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS.

5. WE HAVE NOT SO FAR RECEIVED ANY PRESS ENQUIRIES. IF WE DO, WE PROPOSE TO TAKE THE LINE THAT BIAGGI'S COMMITTEE HAS NO FORMAL STANDING AND THAT WE SHALL NOT BE REPRESENTED AT THE SO-CALLED HEARING. WE SHALL EXPRESS REGRET THAT BIAGGI IS PROVIDING A PLATFORM FOR GALVIN.

6. PLEASE ADVANCE TO CLARK (RID) AND HILL (NIO (L)).

HANNAY

(ADVANCED AS REQUESTED)

NORTHERN IRELAND
LIMITED

RID
NAD
INFO D
WED
MAED
NEWS D
PUSD
SCU
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/PUS

MR DEREK THOMAS
SIR W HARDING
MR GOODALL
MR BARRINGTON
MR O'NEILL
MR JENKINS
MR D C THOMAS
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN IRELAND

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