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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Prime Minister

eDP 24/9

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

24th September 1984

Dear Mr Butler

eDD 25/9

PIRA THREAT TO SUPERMARKET CHAIN

1. The Secretary of State minuted the Prime Minister about this on 20th September.
2. This morning, the Secretary of State and Mr Prior discussed the matter with Mr Gary Weston and his Financial Adviser, Mr Bailey. I was also present.
3. With Mr Prior's support, the Secretary of State explained that there was now both press reports ("Irish Press" of 15 September, copy attached) and a large sum of money had found its way by a circuitous route to the Dublin branch of the Bank of Ireland, and that some of this money had already been withdrawn.
4. Both the Secretary of State and Mr Prior pressed Mr Weston and Mr Bailey repeatedly to disclose whether they were aware or could think of any part of the Weston business empire or family who might have been involved in these transactions. Mr Weston and Mr Bailey disclaimed any knowledge of or insight into what might have happened. They also stated that they understood the position of HMG on resistance to terrorism, and continued to support HMG's position fully.
5. Mr Weston and Mr Bailey also undertook to do everything in their power to try to find out whether any part of Mr Weston's business or family had been involved in any way. They also undertook to do whatever they could, if they did discover any involvement, to stop any more money being paid to PIRA.
6. Mr Weston and Mr Bailey also undertook to inform the Secretary of State of anything they might discover, and the Secretary of State promised to keep in touch with them as far as was consistent
7. This letter is for information only at this stage. I will write again if the Secretary of State feels the personal involvement of the Prime Minister would be helpful.
8. Copies of this letter go for information to Hugh Taylor and Len Appleyard.

Yours Sincerely
Neil Wood

for G K SANDIFORD (in Belfast)
PS/Secretary of State

SECRET