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P R 221207Z APR 86
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4576
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, UK, EI
SUBJECT: LONDON TIMES EDITORIAL ON EXTRADITION TREATY

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF APRIL 22 TIMES EDITORIAL ON THE EXTRADITION
TREATY:

BEGIN TEXT

RECIPROCITY IN WASHINGTON

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TOOK UPON ITSELF POLITICAL OPPROBRIUM LAST
WEEK BY ITS APPROVAL OF THE USE OF AMERICAN BASES IN BRITAIN FOR
THE LIBYAN STRIKES. IT OFFENDED, THE POLLS SAID, A WIDE SWATCHE
OF BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION. IS IT NOT TIME FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES TO PAY A DEBT?

THIS MAY NOT BE LANGUAGE CONSIDERED POLITE IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES.
BUT IT IS TALK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND.

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE THIS WEEK IS RATIFICATION OF TREATY
AMENDMENTS WITH THE EFFECT OF FORBIDDING FUGITIVES FROM UNITED

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KINGDOM JUSTICE TO CLAIM IN THEIR DEFENCE THAT THEIR CRIME WAS
SOMEHOW POLITICAL. AS IT STANDS AMERICAN LAW DAMAGES SOUND
ADMINISTRATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND OFFENDS AGAINST JUSTICE
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AT LARGE. AMERICAN LEGISLATORS SHOULD OBSERVE

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES SPEAKS WITH SEVERAL VOICES.
ONE BELONGS TO THE DEMOCRATIC MINORITY OF THE SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE. IT HAS BOTTLED UP THE TREATY FOR REASONS
PARTLY PROCEDURAL (IT WANTS TO SECURE THE EARLY PASSAGE OF AN
IRISH FINANCIAL AID BILL), PARTLY PRINCIPLED, AND PARTLY ELECTORAL.

THERE ARE IN THE SENATE, AND NOT ONLY AMONG THE DEMOCRATS,
POLITICIANS WHO ARE DEVOUT BELIEVERS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
DOCTRINE THAT HOMICIDE IS NOT MURDER PROVIDED IT IS CARRIED OUT
IN THE RIGHT SPIRIT. FOR SOME LEGISLATORS WITH IRISH-AMERICAN
CONSTITUENCIES THE RIGHT SPIRIT IS INTEND TO UNIFY IRELAND UNDER
THE FLAG OF REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISM. AMERICAN COURTS,
FIERCELY PROUD OF THEIR PREROGATIVES, HAVE BOUGHT SUCH EXCULPATION
FOR TERRORISTS, TOO.

APPLICATIONS BY MRS. THATCHER TO THE WHITE HOUSE ARE GOING TO BE
OF LIMITED WORTH - AND NOT BECAUSE OF ANY AMBIGUITY ON THE
PRESIDENT'S PART CONCERNING IRISH TERRORISM. PRESIDENT REAGAN
HAS PUSHED THE AMENDMENTS THROUGH. HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS DEPLOYED
THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES AGAINST GUN-RUNNING AND TAX EVASION BY
AMERICAN SUPPORTERS OF THE IRA, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY ACTIVE.

BUT THE POLITICAL FACT IS THAT THE PRESIDENT CANNOT GUARANTEE
CONGRESSIONAL OUTCOMES AND THE WHITE HOUSE HAS ONLY A LIMITED
AMOUNT OF CAPITAL TO EXPEND IN ITS DEALINGS WITH CAPITOL HILL.
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THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S INSTINCTS MIGHT BE TO TAKE AN ELEVATED TONE.
IT WOULD EMPHASIZE COMMONALITY OF INTEREST AMONG DEMOCRATIC
SOCIETIES AGAINST TERORISTS WHO REJECT THE VERY BASIS OF POLITICS.

ALONG THIS HIGH ROAD THERE WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE AMERICANS
EVIDENCE MENTIONED BY MR THOM KING OVER THE WEEKEND THAT THE GREENERY
OF IRISH NATIONALISM HAS BEEN TAINTED BY THE GREEN OF ISLAMIC
CRUSADE AGAINST THE WEST. GADDAFI HAS THROUGH HIS MONEY AND
ARMAMENTS SUPPLY BEEN AN ACTOR IN ULSTER, AND AMERICANS SHOUL BE
TOLD THE COMPANY THAT NORAIID KEEPS. THE PROVISIONAL IRA IS
ACCORDING TO ANY OF THE SALIENT DEFINITIONS A FOMENTER OF
REVOLUTION, ANTI-AMERICAN IN MOST OF ITS REFLEXES. THESE
POINTS ARE A LL SOUND AND WELL WORTH PUTTING AGAIN TO THE
AMERICAN PUBLIC. BUT THEY ARE NOT WHAT IS REQUIRED.

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THE BRITISH IN WASHINGTON HAVE IN THE PAST TENDED TO BE RATHER
CENTLEMANLY ABOUT THE ISSUE OF IRELAND, RELYING ON FORMAL TESTIMONY
AND GENTEEL LOBBYING ON THE COCKTAIL CIRCUIT. THE TIME HAS COME
FOR SIR OLIVER WRIGHT TO TAKE A LESSON FROM THE BOOK WRITTEN
BY AMERICA'S OTHER ALLIES AND ENGAGE FULL BLOODEDLY IN THE ROUND
OF HIGH PRESSURE SALESMANSHIP.

CAPITOL HILL IS A CIRCUS OF COMPETING INTERESTS, BUT ONE UNIQUELY
OPEN TO SUASION BY APPEALS TO THE CONSTITUENTS. MRS. THATCJER'S
CREDIT WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES IS AT AN ALL TIME HIGH,
THE GOVERNMENT COULD DO WORSE THAN EMPLOY SOME MADISON AVENUE
SKILLS IN PUTTING OVER THE BRITISH CASE.

ONE CAN FEEL FOREIGN OFFICE SENSIBILITIES FREEZE AT THE PROSPECT.
BUT THIS IS THE TIME FOR ACTION. LET IT BE SIMPLY PUT TO THE
VOTERS IN THE STATES WHO ALONE CAN BRING THE PRO-IRA SENATORS TO
BOOK: YOU OWE US ONE.

BARTLETT

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