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SIR J BULLARD

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RESIDENT CLERK

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SIR P WOODFIELD)

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MR ANGEL)

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SIR R ARMSTRONG)

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NIO

CABINET OFFICE

IMMEDIATE

RESTRICTED

FM WASHINGTON 212135Z JUN 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1704 OF 21 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST, NIO LONDON AND ROUTINE BIS NEW YORK

INFO SAVING LOS ANGELES

ADVANCE COPY

NORTHERN IRELAND: DE LOREAN

1. ON 17 JUNE, LAWYERS FOR JOHN DE LOREAN (WHOSE TRIAL ON DRUGS CHARGES IS SHORTLY TO TAKE PLACE IN LOS ANGELES) FILED A MOTION CLAIMING THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD CONSPIRED TO UNDERMINE THE DE LOREAN COMPANY BECAUSE THE SUCCESS OF THE COMPANY 'AT WHICH CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT IRISH WORKERS LABOURED SIDE BY SIDE WITHOUT VIOLENCE WAS A POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT TO THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN'. THE DEFENCE ARE ALSO CLAIMING THAT THE US GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION OF DE LOREAN, LEADING TO HIS ARREST, WERE UNDERTAKEN AT THE REQUEST OF HMG. IN FILING THE MOTION, THE DEFENCE ASKED FOR A TWO MONTH POSTPONMENT OF THE TRIAL, PROBABLY TO DELAY TESTIMONY BY ONE OF DE LOREAN'S CO-DEFENDANTS WHO HAS AGREED TO PLEAD GUILTY AND TO TESTIFY FOR THE PROSECUTION.

~~CO-DEFENDANTS WHO HAS AGREED TO PLEAD GUILTY AND TO TESTIFY FOR THE PROSECUTION.~~

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE LOS ANGELES BUREAU OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, WE DENIED THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY DE LOREAN'S LAWYERS. THE INFORMATION OFFICER AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN LOS ANGELES, ON OUR INSTRUCTIONS, SAID THAT IT WAS "ABSOLUTE NONSENSE TO SUGGEST THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ANYTHING BUT DELIGHTED AT THE PROSPECT OF CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS WORKING SIDE BY SIDE".

3. THE FBI HAVE NOW ASKED US IF WE CAN LET THEM HAVE MATERIAL WHICH CAN BE USED BY THE US ATTORNEY IN COURT TO REBUT THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST US BY DE LOREAN'S DEFENCE. WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP, NOT LEAST BECAUSE IT IS IN OUR OWN INTEREST TO TRY TO SCOTCH THIS STORRY WHICH, LUDICROUS AS IT IS, WILLNONETHELESS BE BELIEVED BY SOME IN THE UNITED STATES. GRATEFUL FOR MATERIAL THAT WE CAN PASS TO THE FBI. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SOME INITIAL BRIEFING COULD BE PASSED TO US BY TELEPHONE EG. THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC MONEY INVESTED IN DE LOREAN: BACKGROUND TO THE DECISION TO SITE THE DE LOREAN FACTORY IN AN AREA WHICH WOULD PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT ACROSS THE COMMUNITY DIVIDE ETC. PART OF THE DEFENCE'S CLAIM IS THAT TWO SEPARATE PARTIES OFFERED TO PUT UP ENOUGH MONEY TO SAVE DE LOREAN'S COMPANY IN OCTOBER 1982 BUT THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OPPOSED THESE OFFERS. WE SHOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT PIECE OF DISINFORMATION ALSO.

WRIGHT

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