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FM WASHINGTON 240205Z FEB 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 650 OF 23 FEBRUARY

INFO NIO LONDON NIO BELFAST BIS NEW YORK

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT; IRISH DEMONSTRATIONS AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

1. TODAY'S QUOTE WASHINGTON STAR UNQUOTE CARRIES A LENGTHY ARTICLE ABOUT IRISH AMERICAN OPPOSITION TO THE AWARD OF AN HONORARY DEGREE TO THE PRIME MINISTER BY GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY. THE ARTICLE MAKES CLEAR THAT FATHER SEAN MCMANUS OF THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN ORGANISING THE DEMONSTRATION PLANNED FOR THE PM'S VISIT AND THAT HE HAS TRIED TO PERSUADE THE UNIVERSITY TO RESCIND THEIR INVITATION TO MRS THATCHER. THE ARTICLE QUOTES MCMANUS AS SAYING THAT THE INVITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER WAS EXTENDED AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND AS ACCUSING THE PRESIDENT OF GEORGETOWN OF BEING THE SERVANT OF HMG AND CONDONING BRITISH BEHAVIOUR IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

2. ONLY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO DEMONSTRATE ON CAMPUS DURING MRS THATCHER'S VISIT AND THE UNIVERSITY DO NOT ENVISAGE A LARGE TURNOUT. OTHER DEMONSTRATORS EG FROM THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS (INC) AND NORAID WILL BE KEPT AWAY FROM THE CAMPUS AND FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

HENDERSON

LIMITED

NAD

DEF. D

PJSD

SEC. D

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/MR HURD

PS/MR BLAKER

PS/PJS

SIR. E. YUDE

MR DAY

MR URE

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