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Ireland

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TO IMMEDIATE HOLY SEE
TELNO 3 OF 19 MARCH.

NORTHERN IRELAND : DOLOURS PRICE.
REF TELECON CALLAN/HOLROYD 17 MARCH.

1. IN RESPONDING TO SILVESTRINIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON DOLOURS PRICES STATE OF HEALTH AND PROSPECTS YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING.
2. THERE IS AT PRESENT NO COMPARISON TO BE MADE BETWEEN DOLOURS PRICE'S CONDITION IN ARMAGH PRISON AND THAT OF HER SISTER MARION AT THE TIME OF HER RELEASE. MARION PRICE WAS RELEASED FROM ARMAGH PRISON ON 30 APRIL 1980 ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS BECAUSE SHE WAS SUFFERING FROM A SERIOUS PHYSICAL ILLNESS WITH ASSOCIATED PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ALL THE MEDICAL ADVICE WAS THAT SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN IMMINENT DANGER OF DEATH IF SHE HAD REMAINED IN PRISON.
3. DOLOURS PRICE, LIKE HER SISTER, WAS SENTENCED IN NOVEMBER 1973 TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR CAUSING EXPLOSIONS AND 20 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT FOR CONSPIRACY TO CAUSE EXPLOSIONS.
4. DOLOURS IS AT PRESENT GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF DEPRESSION AND ON 3 MARCH SHE WAS ADMITTED TO THE PRISON HOSPITAL FOR EASE OF OBSERVATION. HOWEVER, HER STATE OF HEALTH IS NOT SUCH THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND COULD CONSIDER HER RELEASE ON MEDICAL GROUNDS.
5. MR ATKINS IS AWARE OF THE WIDESPREAD INTEREST THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN IN DOLOURS PRICE'S CASE AND HER CASE WILL CONTINUE TO BE REVIEWED PERIODICALLY. THE MEDICAL AND OTHER REPORTS FROM THE PRISON WILL BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT AT THESE REVIEWS.
6. IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN THE POSITION WE SHALL LET YOU KNOW.

CARRINGTON

NORTHERN IRELAND LIMITED
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