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PRIME MINISTER for information

The MOD rang me this afternoon to let us know of the possibility that a ship would be leaving the Netherlands shortly, en route to Ireland with a cargo of rifles and SAM 7 surface to air missiles. You will remember the Marega Ann case. MOD are doing their utmost to keep tabs on the ship, and RAF aircraft are standing by to keep watch on it.

The Secretary of State particularly wished us to know that the MOD understanding was that the rifles and missiles have been purchased with Libyan money. MOD will be in touch with the Irish authorities if and when the ship's movements become clearer.

Mark Addison

24 December 1985

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