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~~OO N I O (B) DESKBY 1415 Z~~

~~RR WASHINGTON~~

ADVANCE COPY  
IMMEDIATE

GROUPS 250  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FROM DUBLIN 071217Z AUG 1981.  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O DESKBY 071415Z  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 284 OF 07 AUG.  
AND TO IMMEDIATE N I O BELFAST DESKBY 071415Z  
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON

YOUR TELNO 132: HUNGER STRIKE.

1. I SAW THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MR KELLY AT NOON TODAY AND WENT CAREFULLY THROUGH THE POINTS IN YOUR TUR. HIS FIRST COMMENT WAS THAT WHAT WE WERE NOW SAYING FORMALLY WAS REALLY A REPETITION OF WHAT MR TATHAM HAD SAID TO HIM ON WEDNESDAY, NAMELY THAT ANY CONCESSION WOULD SIMPLY BE POCKETED AND THE STRIKE CONTINUE. SECONDLY, HE SAID THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED TO HEAR THAT WE HAD APPARENTLY VERY LITTLE LEFT TO OFFER. HE THOUGHT THAT ONE OR TWO OF MR ATKINS' STATEMENTS HAD SAID THAT WHEN THE STRIKE ENDED THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PRISON ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. HE HAD NO CHARTER AND VERSE AND DID NOT

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PRISON ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. HE HAD NO CHAPTER AND VERSE AND DID NOT CONTINUE WITH THIS. I SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS HOW MUCH WAS A LITTLE. OUR POINT WAS THAT TO GIVE UP WHAT WE HAD GOT LEFT WOULD BE A MISTAKE. THERE WAS SIMPLY A TACTICAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US.

2. MR KELLY THEN ASKED ME HOW WE SAW THE STRIKE ENDING. I SAID THAT I DID NOT THINK ANYONE COULD SEE THAT AT THE MOMENT. HE SAID THAT WE WERE NOT MAKING ENOUGH EFFORT TO END IT AND THAT WE SEEMED TO BE EXPECTING A COMPLETE SURRENDER BY THE STRIKERS. I SAID THAT IF THERE WAS A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE STRIKERS TO END THE STRIKE THERE WERE SEVERAL INITIATIVES IN THE PAST WEEKS WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN THEM THE OPPORTUNITY. ALSO OUR READINESS TO CLARIFY WHAT IS ON OFFER TO THE PRISONERS STILL STANDS AND COULD BE TAKEN UP AT ANY TIME.

3. ON LEAVING MR KELLY SAID THAT HE QUITE UNDERSTOOD OUR REASONS FOR WISHING OUR REPLY TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND HE WOULD MAKE THIS CLEAR TO HIS COLLEAGUES.

FIGG.

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 071418Z HMT/JJ

GRS 230

UNCLASSIFIED

FM DUBLIN 071005Z AU 1981

TO IMMEDIATE F C O (DESKBY 071130Z)

TELEGRAM NUMBER 283 OF 07 AUGUST

AND TO INFO IMMEDIATE N I O (BELFAST)

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT LAST NIGHT:

" THE ACTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER, MR JOHN KELLY MET A GROUP OF RELATIVES OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS FROM 3.30 TO 4.30 TODAY. THE TAOISEACH JOINED THE MEETING AT 4 O'CLOCK AND REMAINED IN THE DISCUSSION WITH THE RELATIVES UNTIL 5.30. THE RELATIVES PRESSED THE TAOISEACH AND THE MINISTER TO BACK THE "FIVE DEMANDS" OF THE HUNGER STRIKING PRISONERS, TO RECALL THE IRISH AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, TO EXPEL THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, AND TO REMOVE SECURITY FORCES FROM THE BORDER. THE TAOISEACH AND THE MINISTER EXPLAINED WHY THEY COULD NOT TAKE THE ACTION URGED ON THEM BY THE RELATIVES. THEY "POINTED OUT THAT GIVEN THE MILITARY DISCIPLINE OF THE ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH THE PRISONERS BELONGED, THE STRIKE COULD BE ENDED BY ORDERS GIVEN BY THESE ORGANISATIONS TO THEIR MEMBERS INVOLVED."

"THEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CLIMATE WOULD BE CREATED IN WHICH THIS WHOLE PROBLEM WOULD BE READILY RESOLVED, IF THE I R A AND THE I N L A DECLARED AN END TO THEIR CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE HUMANITARIAN BASIS UPON WHICH THE PROBLEM OF THE PROTESTING PRISONERS WAS BEING APPROACHED"

FOLLOWING THE TAOISEACH DEPARTURE THE RELATIVES INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO "SIT - IN" IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS. OFFICIALS URGED THEM, IN THE INTEREST OF THE CASE THEY WERE SEEKING TO ADVANCE, TO LEAVE OF THEIR OWN ACCORD. THEY REFUSED TO DO SO. AFTER FURTHER REQUESTS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE GARDA SIOCHANA WHICH WAS ALSO REFUSED THE GARDAI ESCORTED THE RELATIVES FROM THE PREMISES UNDER PROTEST.

FIGG

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