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FM WASHINGTON 091600Z OCT 79
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3051 OF 9 OCTOBER
INFO NIO BELFAST

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PMS

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 1355 : ARMS FOR THE RUC.

1. VEST HAS NOW TOLD US THAT, AFTER DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF THE PROCEDURES HERE, HE IS CONVINCED THAT NO SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND THROUGH CHANGING THE FORM OF ORDER (FOR EXAMPLE BY OUR APPLYING FOR AN EXPORT LICENCE SHOWING HMG AND QUOTE FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE REALM UNQUOTE AS END USER AND PURPOSE). THE TROUBLE IS THAT, AS SOON AS AN EXPORT LICENCE WAS GRANTED ON THIS BASIS, THE FACT WOULD INEVITABLY LEAK, AND QUESTIONS WOULD BE ASKED BOTH HERE AND IN LONDON WHICH IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER WITHOUT SHOWING THAT THE UNDERTAKING TO CONGRESS WAS BEING CIRCUMVENTED.

2. I AM SURE THAT THE LINE PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF MY TELEGRAM NUMBER 3012, AND NOW BEING ENGAGED BY KINGMAN BREWSTER (YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 1355) IS THE MOST PROMISING AVAILABLE TO US. BUT MERELY FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO CONFIRM THE ORDERS IN THE PIPELINE WILL NOT DO. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT HERE, THE ONLY ORDERS IN THE PIPELINE ARE FOR SPARE PARTS FOR THE M1 CARBINE AND AMMUNITION (MY TELEGRAM NUMBER 2008). AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY TOLD YET OF AN ORDER FOR THE SECOND TRANCHE OF 3,000 REVOLVERS.

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