

CPS 320

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 060800Z (NIO BELFAST AND DUBLIN)

FM WASHINGTON 052201Z SEP 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 2545 OF 3 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST, DUBLIN

ROUTINE BIS NEW YORK

Ant.

MY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING TELEGRAM: ⁵⁻⁹ NORTHERN IRELAND.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT:

QUESTION.

MR SECRETARY, AS YOU KNOW, PRIME MINISTERS LYNCH AND THATCHER ARE MEETING TODAY. YOU OR THE DEPARTMENT RECENTLY SUSPENDED ARMS SALES TO THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY. IN THE MEANTIME PEOPLE LIKE GOVERNOR CAREY HAVE EVEN STEPPED IN TO OFFER MEDIATION. MY QUESTION IS, WHEN WILL THIS STUDY THAT YOU ARE DOING NOW ON THIS BE COMPLETED AND ARE YOU CONTEMPLATING SUGGESTING TO MRS THATCHER AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT A NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVE TO TRY AND SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

ANSWER.

THE ANSWER IS THAT WE ARE NOT PLANNING TO SUGGEST A NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVE. OUR POSITION HAS BEEN, AND PRESIDENT CARTER STATED IT VERY CLEARLY IN 1977, A POSITION OF IMPARTIALITY. IT IS A POSITION OF CONDEMNING TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE AND IT IS A POSITION WHICH SUPPORTS THE BRINGING TOGETHER OF THE VARIOUS FACTIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO TRY TO MOVE TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. IT IS AN IMMENSELY DIFFICULT PROBLEM AS ALL OF US KNOW - ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT OF THESE TYPES OF PROBLEMS THAT EXISTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE POSITION WHICH WE HAVE TAKEN IS SUPPORTED

/BY THE

BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN BOTH IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND. FOR US TO INTRUDE OURSELVES AT THIS POINT INTO THE IRISH SITUATION IN MY JUDGEMENT WOULD NOT BE WISE. I THINK IT WOULD BE RESENTED BY THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND THEY ARE THE ONES THAT SHOULD DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE.

HENDERSON

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PS/LPS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR RIDLEY
PS/MR BLAKER
PS/PUS
SIR A DUFF
MR BULLARD
MR FERGUSSON
LORD N G LENNOX
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DESKBY 060800Z (DUBLIN AND NIO BELFAST)

FM WASHINGTON 052200Z SEP 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 2544 OF 5 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN, NIO BELFAST

ROUTINE BIS NEW YORK

NORTHERN IRELAND

1. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY MR VANCE WAS ASKED WHEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT REVIEW OF POLICY ON ARMS FOR THE RUC WOULD BE COMPLETED AND WHETHER THE US GOVERNMENT WERE CONTEMPLATING SUGGESTING A NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVE TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. THE TEXT OF MR VANCE'S REPLY, IN WHICH HE AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF THE RUC POLICY REVIEW, IS IN MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.

2. AT DESK LEVEL THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THEY ARE ACCELERATING THEIR WORK ON THE REVIEW, BUT ARE UNABLE TO FORECAST WHEN IT WILL BE COMPLETED.

HENDERSON

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