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FM DUBLIN 111215Z SEPTEMBER 79

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 279 OF 11 SEPTEMBER

AND TO PRIORITY NIO BELFAST

MY TELNO 276: SECURITY COOPERATION WITH THE IRISH REPUBLIC

1. I SAW MR O'KENNEDY LAST NIGHT AND EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF ARRANGING THE NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING BETWEEN 1-5 OCTOBER. I EXPLAINED THE DIFFICULTIES ABOUT 8 OCTOBER. HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD DO HIS VERY BEST TO FALL IN WITH OUR WISHES. HE HAD NOT KNOWN, WHEN AT DOWNING STREET, HOW FULL HIS DIARY WAS DURING THE DATES SUGGESTED. O'ROURKE TOLD ME LATER THAT APART FROM RETURNING FROM THE US FOR THE PAPAL VISIT, HIS MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO BE AT THE UN FOR THE POPE'S ADDRESS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 2 OCTOBER. HE THOUGHT HIS MINISTER WOULD HAVE TO COME VERY SOON TO A DECISION ON WHETHER HE WOULD RETURN TO NEW YORK AFTER THE POPE'S VISIT.
2. MR O'KENNEDY RAISED THE QUESTION OF ARMY-TO-ARMY COOPERATION AND SAID THAT THE TAOISEACH HAD HAD IN MIND BRITISH ARMY-TO-GARDA COMMUNICATION. I SAID THAT THAT WAS NOT OUR UNDERSTANDING AND HE COMMENTED THAT THAT ASPECT OF THE TALKS HAD INDEED BEEN 'CONFUSING'. WE AGREED THAT IT WAS A MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE PURSUED BY A MEETING OF OFFICIALS.

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