

NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES

25

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MR FERGUSSON
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NEWS DEPT

N IRELAND OFFICE - PS TO SEC OF STATE
RM 66 A/2 GGS

N IRELAND OFFICE [4 copies]

MR K STOWE

MR MARSHALL

MR P W J BUXTON

CABINET OFFICE - SIR J HUNT

MR R WADE-GERY

DIO

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

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RESIDENT CLERK

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OO F C O (DESKBY 260900Z)

RR DUBLIN

GR230

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 260900Z

FM WASHINGTON 252320Z NOV
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3890 OF 25 NOVEMBER
INFORMATION DUBLIN.

ms

MY TEL NO 3881 : ARMS FOR THE R.U.C.

VEST (STATE DEPARTMENT) TOLD US YESTERDAY THAT, FOLLOWING OUR
APPROACH LAST WEEK (MY TEL NO 3818), VANCE HAD PUT A PAPER ON THE
ARMS SALES ISSUE TO PRESIDENT CARTER.
THE PRESIDENT HAD MINUTED : QUOTE I SHOULD GO AHEAD AND DO IT
UNQUOTE (THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT WE SHOULD GET WHAT WE ARE

ARMS SALES ISSUE TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

THE PRESIDENT HAD MINUTED : QUOTE I SHOULD GO AHEAD AND DO IT UNQUOTE (THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT WE SHOULD GET WHAT WE ARE ORDERING)

2. VEST EMPHASISED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS STILL TO BE OVERCOME, IN PARTICULAR THE ATTITUDE OF SPEAKER O'NEILL WITH WHOM THE ADMINISTRATION WERE IN TOUCH. BUT IT WAS THE AIM TO LET US HAVE AN ANSWER BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT AND THE ADMINISTRATION WERE TRYING TO MAKE THAT ANSWER A POSITIVE ONE.

3. FROM WHAT WE KNOW OF O'NEILL'S ATTITUDE HE WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO MOVE. SO WE ARE FAR FROM BEING IN THE CLEAR YET. MEANWHILE, WHAT VEST HAS TOLD US REINFORCES THE NEED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF OUR APPROACH FOR THE TIME BEING (PARA 2 OF TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE).

HENDERSON

IMMEDIATE

NNNN

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