

PT Tours
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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FM DUBLIN 20:1745Z NOVEMBER 1980

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 335 OF 20 NOVEMBER 1980

FOR CONFERENCE SECTION.

YOUR TELS NO. 131 AND 132 : PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

1. WE HAD A USEFUL MEETING WITH THE IRISH TODAY. WE HAVE ARRANGED TO SEE THEM AGAIN AT 3PM ON TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO BE PRESENT.

2. THE FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED IN THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS:-
 - (A) VENUE. THE MEETINGS AND THE LUNCH ARE TO BE IN DUBLIN CASTLE SEMICOLON

 - (B) ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE. THE IRISH ARE IN FAVOUR OF USING DUBLIN AIRPORT FOR BOTH ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE SEMICOLON

 - (C) TRANSPORT TO AND FROM DUBLIN CASTLE. THE IRISH HAVE YET TO MAKE A DECISION BETWEEN THE USE OF HELICOPTERS AND TRAVEL BY ROAD. IF HELICOPTERS ARE TO BE USED THEY HAVE IN MIND A LARGE SIKORSKY WHICH THEY SEEM TO THINK WOULD TAKE SOME 23 PEOPLE AT A MAXIMUM. (FOR TUESDAY'S MEETING WE WILL NEED TO KNOW WHETHER ALL OUR MINISTERS CAN TRAVEL IN THE SAME HELICOPTER.) BUT THEY HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR TRAVEL BY ROAD WHICH WOULD INVOLVE PROTECTED VEHICLES FOR MINSTERS AND ALL OFFICIALS TRAVELLING BY COACH. THEY WERE INTERESTED TO HEAR THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER PROTECTED VEHICLES FROM THE NORTH. THEY HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GARDA (WHO WERE NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING) WOULD BE ABLE TO LAY THEIR HANDS ON ONE PROTECTED VEHICLE WHICH, COMBINED WITH THE TWO EMBASSY VEHICLES THEY THOUGHT MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT SEMICOLON

 - (D) WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT BOTH THE UNPROTECTED EMBASSY EMBASSY VEHICLES WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE SAFE HAND SERVICE SEMICOLON

 - (E) WORKING ACCOMMODATION AND COMMUNICATIONS. WE HAVE INFORMED THEM OF THE REQUIREMENTS IN PARAS 5 AND 6 OF YOUR TELNO. 131. WE HAVE ALSO INFORMED THEM THAT WE MAY BE USING MOBILE RADIO COMMUNICATION (PARA 5 OF YOUR TELNO. 132). THEY RAISED NO OBJECTION SEMICOLON

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- (F) PASSES. THE IRISH WILL BE ORGANISING PASSES AND IDENTIFICATION FOR OFFICIAL VEHICLES SEMICOLON
- (G) PRESS ARRANGEMENTS. STILL VERY FLEXIBLE. THE IRISH ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF A PRESS CONFERENCE OR PRESS BRIEFING IN THE CASTLE, BUT THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A PROBLEM WITH ACCREDITATION. THEY ARE STILL LOOKING AT THIS. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER A PRIME MINISTERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE IS DEFINITELY EXCLUDED FROM OUR THINKING. ARE WE ONLY THINKING IN TERMS OF A BACKGROUND BRIEFING BY THE THE PM OR MR INGHAM?
- (H) CONTINGENCY ACCOMMODATION. THE IRISH HAVE NO GOOD IDEAS ABOUT CONTINGENCY ACCOMMODATION. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THAT IF THE WORST CAME TO THE WORST THE ONLY PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF SECURITY WOULD BE TO ACCOMMODATE AT LEAST SIX IN DUBLIN CASTLE, UP TO TEN IN GLENCAIRN AND FOR THOSE AT LEAST RISK EITHER TO STAY IN A HOTEL OR GO BACK ON THE EVENING BOAT. BUT FOR TUESDAY'S MEETING WE WILL NEED TO HAVE A DEFINITE VIEW ON WHETHER ACCOMMODATION IN AN HOTEL IS UNACCEPTABLE IN THE LAST ANALYSIS.

STAPLES

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