

010  
CONFIDENTIAL

*Prime Minister*  
*There is more background in the telex attached.*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 August 1981

*Dear Willie,*

IRA Propaganda Film

I understand that the Prime Minister has asked about the report in Brussels telegram no 117 of 31 July about an IRA propaganda film being made in Belgium.

The Embassy has spoken to the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs about press reports that the Belgian Government has given a BF 5 million (£65,000) subsidy to the film which is being made by a concern with Belgian, French and Irish partners and is strongly propagandist in support of the IRA. During their démarche the Embassy left a note asking:-

- (a) whether the Belgian authorities have given their permission for the prison at Liège to be used in making the film;
- (b) whether the Belgian Government has provided a subsidy for the making of the film.

No reply has yet been received. We shall shortly be calling in the Belgian Ambassador to reinforce the démarche made in Brussels. If in the meantime we get a reply from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels that the Belgian Government has indeed helped the making of the film, we shall of course complain in strong terms that this is not what we expect of a Community partner and ally, and enquire whether steps can be taken to stop the venture.

Lord Carrington did not see this letter before issue, but will see a copy over the weekend. We shall let you know if he has further comments.

*Yours ever,*

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

Willie Rickett Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON