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CODED MESSAGE
IMMEDIATE/UNGENT
CARRELLO TO STATE
INITIALS COCHEGAN

C.192

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON FOR DONLON FROM LILLIS

MAN UUUA IJMKO

THE REVEREND MARTIN SMYTH WAS RECEIVED YESTERDAY BY SENATOR KENNEDY.
MR SMYTH WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND HIS
SESSION WITH THE SENATOR WAS IN PRIVATE. THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF
THE EXCHANGES IS BASED ON A BRIEF VERBAL REPORT BY THE SENATOR TO AN
AIDE. WE WOULD HOPE TO SEE COPY OF A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT BY
THE SENATOR HIMSELF AT A LATER STAGE.

THE SENATOR AT THE OUTSET DREW SMYTH'S ATTENTION TO SEVERAL OF HIS OWN STATEMENTS DISCOURAGING SUPPORT FOR VIOLENCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. HE ALSO GAVE TO SMYTH COPY OF THE RESEARCH PAMPHLET HE COMMISSIONED FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROTESTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN HERITAGE.

SENATOR KENNEDY TOLD SMYTH THAT ONE OF THE REASONS HE PARTICULARLY WISHED TO SEE HIM WAS THAT MR HUME HAD RECOMMENDED THAT HE DO SO. HE SAID THAT HUME HAD DESCRIBED SMYTH AS A MAN OF SINCERITY.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE SALIENT POINTS MADE BY MR SMYTH IN KENNEDY'S VIEW:

AOQXC OJPIY.-/£0056 6139900-U SUEI ULR QPF

- (1) HE WAS SEVERELY CRITICAL OF THE SDLP WHICH HE SAID WAS LOSING CONTACT WITH ITS GRASS-ROOTS AND MOREOVER WAS UNABLE TO HOLD TOGETHER ON POLICY WHEN IT CAME TO THE POINT OF NEGOTIATION. HE CONTRASTED THE SDLP WITH THE OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY WHICH HE SAID WAS DISCIPLINED IN POLICY AND IN NEGOTIATION AND MORE-OVER MAINTAINED EXCELLENT LINKS WITH ITS GRASS-ROOTS. HE INSTANCED THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN HUME AND DEVLIN AS A GLARING EXAMPLE OF THE SDLP'S TENDENCY TOWARDS DISUNITY.
- (2) TOWARDS THE END OF THE CONVERSATION SMYTH SAID THAT HE FELT THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME HOPE OF POLITICAL MOVEMENT FOLLOWING A BRITISH ELECTION. HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT SORT OF DEVELOPMENT HE THOUGHT EITHER LIKELY OR POSSIBLE.

(4)

CALHAT

EDFRG

SENATOR KENNEDY FELT THAT THE EXCHANGE WAS USEFUL. IT WAS HIS FIRST SUBSTANTIAL CONTACT WITH A LEADING UNIONIST. FROM REMARKS BY HIS AIDE, I BELIEVE THERE IS NO DANGER THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE SEEN THROUGH SEVERAL OF SMYTH'S ARGUMENTS E.G. THE SDLP AND MRS THATCHER.

BY AGREEMENT, THERE WAS NO PUBLICITY ABOUT THE MEETING. NEVERTHE-LESS, A TEAM OF TIME MAGAZINE REPORTERS WERE FOLLOWING KENNEDY AROUND YESTERDAY AND MAY BE AWARE OF THE ENCOUNTER. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE BE INFORMED URGENTY OF ANY STATEMENTS ISSUED BY SMYTH IN IRELAND.

BY THE WAY, KENNEDY HAS REQUESTED THAT WE BRIEF HUME IF POSSIBLE ON THIS EXCHANGE. GRATEFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT COULD ARRANGE THIS.

CONTRARY TO MY EARLIER INFORMATION, I LEARNED TODAY THAT NO APPROACH WAS MADE TO THE SPEAKER'S OFFICE TO RECEIVE MR SMYTH.

THE BRITISH APPARENTLY ARRANGED FOR SMYTH TO BE RECEIVED BY COUNCILLE NIMITZ AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SOMETIME TODAY.

THE BRITISH HEAD OF CHANCERY HAS INVITED ME TO LUNCH NEXT WEEK TO GIVE ME SOME INFORMATION ABOUT MR SMYTH'S VISIT. I SHALL OF COURSE REPORT TO YOU ON THIS.

MICHARD RESERVED TO SBYWPQO SBARE STORE ST

END OF MESSAGE AUGUST 3, 1978 TIME SENT::1750HRSGs9+5300F ESTR EI