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TELEX

25 APRIL 1989

TO HQ FROM LONDON
FOR P. MURPHY FROM AMBASSADOR

I called on the South African Ambassador, Mr Rae Killen, early last evening, I spoke to him and left a speaking note in the lines set out in your telex. I emphasised the strong feelings aroused, in Government and in public opinion, by the events in Paris.

He agreed to transmit my message to Pretoria on Tuesday morning.

In response, Killen read a press release, a copy of which has been faxed to you. (The text, rapidly translated, he said might require some correction.)

Re last sentence first paragraph, I asked did this intend to convey dissociation from the method reportedly used in this case.

That is negotiation with a paramilitary/terrorist organisation. He replied that he thought it was the case.

Re the use of the present ("is") in the sentence at end of para 2 I said this could raise questions about possible earlier supplies. Killen replied that he did not know if the tense had any significance but it could possibly be intended to cover earlier assistance to Renamo. He had seen the story in the Independent about South African arms in Northern Ireland. This had come as a surprise to him. He said if there was anything in it, surely there would have been strong representations to the South African Government. This was not the case, to his knowledge.

Before I left, the Ambassador asked about ANC representatives being received in Dublin and suggested that any reply from Pretoria might raise questions about Irish support for that

organisation, which for years had pursued what it calls its "armed struggle". I made it clear that there is no question of the Irish Government supporting the "armed struggle" of the ANC and that our view that progress in South Africa should be by political means is well known.

w2600