



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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C.153

18 AUGUST 1989

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON.
FOR K DOWLING FROM D KELLEHER

MMQWERT

PROPOSED U.S. TRAVEL ADVISORY ON DUBLIN/BELFAST RAILWAY

- Note*
Discussed with S. Star.
Is already covered this
8/23/89
18/8/89 1736
EB Bailey
1. AS MENTIONED, I WAS TELEPHONED THIS MORNING BY SHEPARD COMPER-COLES OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY WHO SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED IN LONDON BY THE U.S. THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE ISSUING A TRAVEL ADVISORY CONCERNING THE DUBLIN/BELFAST RAILWAY ON TUESDAY NEXT. COMPER-COLES SAID THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THAT OUR MINISTER HAD CALLED IN U.S. AMBASSADOR HECKLER TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE PROPOSED ISSUING OF THE ADVISORY. COMPER-COLES SAID THAT THE BRITISH VIEW WAS THAT ISSUING THE ADVISORY WOULD BE "A PITY" BUT IT MUST BE FOR THE U.S. TO MAKE THEIR OWN JUDGEMENT ON THESE MATTERS. THE BRITISH HAVE ENCOURAGED THE U.S. NOT TO OPENLY PUBLICISE THE ADVISORY.
 2. COMPER-COLES'S PURPOSE IN CALLING WAS TO FIND OUT OUR REACTION TO THE AMERICAN DECISION. HE SAID THEY "COULD REINFORCE" ANY APPROACH WE MAY MAKE TO THE U.S. AUTHORITIES ON THIS MATTER.
 3. SUBSEQUENTLY, I RECEIVED A CALL FROM KEN LONGMYER, IRELAND DESK OFFICER AT E/STATE, WHO REFERRED TO A CONTACT WHICH HE HAD WITH MR D CRIDGAIN OF THIS OFFICE SOME WEEKS AGO IN WHICH LONGMYER HAD INDICATED THAT E/STATE WERE CONSIDERING SOME SORT OF ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE RAILWAY, HAVING REGARD TO AMERICAN CONCERNS FOLLOWING THE FAYAH 100 INCIDENT. LONGMYER ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE IRISH AND BRITISH SITES HAD ARGUED AGAINST THE ADVISORY THE U.S. HAD DECIDED TO ISSUE ONE, WHICH WILL BE DONE AT THE E/STATE SPOKESPERSON'S BRIEFING ON TUESDAY NEXT, AUGUST 22ND. LONGMYER ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR HECKLER HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY THIS INFORMATION TO THE MINISTER AT LUNCH IN IVEAGH HOUSE TODAY.
 4. CLEARLY, THE ISSUING OF THIS ADVISORY IS LIKELY TO GENERATE MEDIA AND OTHER COMMENT HERE. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AN INDICATION OF THE LINE WHICH YOU WOULD PROPOSE WE TAKE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE WOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL TO KNOW OF ANY FURTHER ACTIONS YOU PROPOSE TO TAKE VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. AUTHORITIES IN THIS MATTER.

CONFIDENTIAL

IMMEDIATE

C.159

18 AUGUST 1989

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON

FOR KEVIN DOWLING FROM D KELLEHER
MMMJKHGF

SUBJ: PROPOSED US TRAVEL ADVISORY

cc Mr Gallagher
Mr Hayes
Mr Dill
see please
21/8.

18/8/89 1755
S. B. Bailey

1. FURTHER TO MY C158 OF TODAY, PLEASE FIND ANNEXED TO THIS TELEX THE TEXT OF THE TRAVEL ADVISORY IN QUESTION, WHICH I OBTAINED FROM LONGMYER OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

2. LONGMYER SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS THE 'TALKING POINTS' SENT TO AMBASSADOR HECKLER FOR ME IN HER CONVERSATION TODAY WITH THE MINISTER:
USE

- THE ADVISORY DOES NOT ADVISE AGAINST TRAVEL TO NORTHERN IRELAND. IT FOCUSSES INSTEAD ON DELAYS FOR INTENDING TRAVELLERS
- THE US RECOGNISE THE VALIDITY OF THE MINISTER'S CONCERNS. HOWEVER, THE US BELIEVE THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO TRAVELLERS IS NECESSARY AND IN THIS CONTEXT REFER TO THE PAN AM 103 INCIDENT. THE US UNDERSTAND THAT THE INCIDENTS ON THE DUBLIN/BELFAST RAIL LINE ARE NOT AIMED AT AMERICANS
- THE US HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERNS ABOUT AFFORDING A PROPAGANDA VICTORY TO TERRORISTS.

3. LONGMYER EMPHASISED TWO POINTS THAT THE ADVISORY WAS A MILD ONE AND ADDED THAT THE BRITISH HAD BEEN CONCERNED AT THE PROSPECT OF A STRONGER ADVISORY.

ANNEX

QUOTE

FOR TRAVELLERS TO NORTHERN IRELAND

TRAVELERS TO NORTHERN IRELAND SHOULD BE AWARE THAT FREQUENT BOMB THREATS AND SMALL EXPLOSIONS BY THE PROVISIONAL IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY HAVE INTERRUPTED RAIL SERVICE, ESPECIALLY ON THE BELFAST-DUBLIN LINE. SINCE THE EXPLOSIVES HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE TRACKS AND NOT ON THE TRAINS AND AUTHORITIES HAVE RECEIVED WARNINGS, THERE HAVE BEEN NO INJURIES OR DEATHS TO DATE. AUTHORITIES HAVE RESPONDED BY CLOSING THE TRACKS AND PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION BY BUS. TRAVELERS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR DELAYS AND SHOULD FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF THE AUTHORITIES.

UNQUOTE.

EN
ELMFC