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CONFIDENTIAL

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FM WASHI TO FCOLN

142325Z JAN

GRS 1172

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 86

OF 142325Z JANUARY 88

AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO (B) DUBLIN

INFO SAVING BIS NEW YORK

VISIT TO IRELAND BY CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF IRELAND
SUMMARY

1. ALTHOUGH SYMPATHETIC TO WHAT HMG IS TRYING TO DO IN NORTHERN IRELAND, DONNELLY AND FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION RETAIN MANY NATIONALIST INSTINCTS, AND DOUBTS ABOUT HMG'S POLICIES ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. ARGUMENTS FOR FURTHER MONEY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FUND WILL BE WELCOME.

DETAIL

2. MR VIGGERS MAY FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE AN ASSESSMENT FROM HERE OF CONGRESSMAN DONNELLY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND DELEGATION, AND OF THE ISSUES LIKELY TO BE ON THEIR MINDS, BEFORE THE MINISTER SEES THEM IN LONDONDERRY ON 20 JANUARY.

3. THE DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF CONGRESSMEN BRIAN DONNELLY (D - MASSACHUSETTS), PAT WILLIAMS (D - MONTANA) AND BERNARD DWYER (D - NEW JERSEY). WE HAVE NOT YET HAD FINAL CONFIRMATION THAT CONGRESSMAN BILL COYNE (D-PENNSYLVANIA) WILL BE JOINING THE PARTY. THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY KEVIN PETERSON FROM THE HOUSE

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS'S OFFICE, WHO IS THE CHIEF STAFFER TO THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND, AS WELL AS A PROTEGE OF TIP O'NEILL AND THE PRIME MOVER IN THE EFFORTS TO TRACE SPEAKER WRIGHT'S IRISH ANCESTRY. WE HAVE SENT PERSONALITY NOTES ON THE CONGRESSMEN TO LEACH (SIL DIVISION).

4. ALTHOUGH DONNELLY SUCCEEDED HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER FOLEY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND EARLY LAST YEAR, HE HAS YET TO MAKE HIS PRESENCE FELT ON IRISH ISSUES APART FROM IMMIGRATION PARTLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN LOW ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA). BUT WHAT EVIDENCE WE HAVE SUGGESTS THAT DONNELLY RETAINS AT LEAST SOME OF HIS EARLIER, GREENISH, INSTINCTS, OF WHICH ONE SYMPTOM WAS HIS MEMBERSHIP (LIKE THAT OF ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION) OF BIAGGI'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON IRISH AFFAIRS. AS THE MINISTER WILL SEE FROM THE PERSONALITY NOTES, DONNELLY'S CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN SOUTH BOSTON, LIKE THOSE OF DWYER AND COYNE, IS A STRONGLY ETHNIC, BLUE COLLAR, ONE. THE MAJOR CURRENT LOCAL ISSUE IS HOW TO HANDLE THE LARGE NUMBERS OF YOUNG ILLEGAL IRISH IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE NOT COVERED BY THE AMNESTY FOR THOSE WHO ARRIVED BEFORE 1982 AND WHO WILL BE HELPED ONLY SLIGHTLY BY PROPOSALS FROM DONNELLY AND SENATOR KENNEDY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VISAS FOR WEST EUROPEANS. DONNELLY'S FELLOW CONGRESSMAN FROM BOSTON, JOE KENNEDY, HAS TRIED TO OUT-FLANK THE DONNELLY/(TED) KENNEDY BILL BY INTRODUCING A MORE RADICAL AMNESTY PROPOSAL OF HIS OWN. BOTH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND AND SIR KENNETH BLOOMFIELD MET DONNELLY DURING THEIR VISITS HERE LAST AUTUMN.

5. OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, CONGRESSMEN WILLIAMS AND DWYER BOTH BELONG TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FRIENDS, AND NEITHER HAS A SIGNIFICANT TRACK RECORD ON IRISH ISSUES. CONGRESSMAN COYNE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS LISTED IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF THE PRO-IRA WEEKLY QUOTE THE IRISH PEOPLE UNQUOTE AS BEING ONE OF THOSE WHO HELPED DRAFT A QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH BIAGGI HAS SENT TO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. COYNE HAS ALSO TAKEN

AN INTEREST IN THE WORKING OF THE FLAX TRUST IN BELFAST.

6. ACCORDING TO PETERSON, THE DELEGATION'S PROGRAMME NOW

PS/SOSNI

PS/MR STANLEY

PUS

SIR K BLOOMFIELD

MR STEPHENS DUS(B)

MRS HUTCHINGS

MR WOOD

MR INNES

MR ELLIOTT

MR HEWITT

MR McCONNELL

LIAISON X 2

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RECEIVED. 15.01.88.

15 JAN 1988

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IMMEDIATE

SATURDAY 16 JANUARY

ARRIVE DUBLIN : SPEND WEEKEND PRIVATELY

MONDAY 18 JANUARY

MEETINGS AT LEINSTER HOUSE WITH THE TAOISEACH AND THE TANAISTE, AND CALLS ON MR SPRING AND MR O'MALLEY. BRIEFING BY DONNELLY OF BACKBENCH TDS ON IRISH IMMIGRATION ISSUES.
DINNER GIVEN BY US AMBASSADOR

TUESDAY 19 JANUARY

PLANT TREE OUTSIDE IDA OFFICE IN DUNDALK : VISIT IFI PROJECT
MEETING IN DUBLIN WITH RECIPIENTS OF QUOTE DONNELLY VISAS UNQUOTE

WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY

CALL ON THE LORD MAYOR OF DERRY
VISIT TO UNITED TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT IN THE BOGSIDE
LUNCHEON GIVEN BY MR VIGGERS
MEETING WITH THE CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT ARCHBISHOPS
VISIT TO EUROCENTRE WEST
DINNER GIVEN BY SDLP

THURSDAY 21 JANUARY

TRAVEL TO GALWAY
MEETING WITH MAYOR AND LOCAL TDS

WEEKEND SPENT PRIVATELY

7. OF THE ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE CONGRESSMEN, UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST IMPORTANT IS FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND MACBRIDE. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS RECENTLY, INCLUDING DONNELLY'S TALK WITH SIR K BLOOMFIELD, THAT FEELING IS RUNNING HIGH AMONG IRISH-AMERICAN POLITICIANS THAT HMG OUGHT TO BE MOVING FURTHER AND FASTER ON MEASURES TO COMBAT EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND. IN THE RUN-UP TO ST PATRICK'S DAY, AND WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS IN THE AUTUMN IN MIND, THERE IS A REAL DANGER THAT DONNELLY OR HIS MODERATE ALLIES MAY FEEL THEMSELVES OBLIGED TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION CRITICISING HMG'S ALLEGED LACK OF ACTION IN THIS FIELD, AND PERHAPS EVEN EXPRESSING SOME SORT OF QUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES. IF THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN, OR EVEN IF IT DOES, WE CANNOT EXCLUDE A SURGE IN SUPPORT FOR THE D'AMATO/FISH BILL, OR PERHAPS FOR SOME OTHER ACTION ON THE HILL TO FURTHER THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES.

8. AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND, ANYTHING WHICH MR VIGGERS CAN DO TO REASSURE DONNELLY AND HIS COLLEAGUES THAT HMG IS MOVING AS FAR AND AS FAST AS POSSIBLE TOWARDS INTRODUCING FURTHER LEGISLATION ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND WILL BE HELPFUL. IN ADDITION, AS THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LEGISLATION, MR VIGGERS MIGHT LIKE TO EXPLAIN TO THE CONGRESSMEN THE ENORMOUS COMPLICATIONS OF LEGISLATING IN THIS AREA. THE MINISTER MAY NEED TO OUTLINE HMG'S PLANS FOR THE FEA, IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT LEAK.

9. APART FROM MACBRIDE, THE OTHER POLITICAL ISSUE OF INTEREST TO THE CONGRESSMEN IS LIKELY TO BE THE LINKED QUESTION OF EXTRADITION AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, BOTH IN IRELAND AND ON THE MAINLAND. DONNELLY MAY WELL PRESS THE MINISTER ON 3-JUDGE COURTS, AND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE BIRMINGHAM BOMBERS BILL.

10. ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, THE MAIN INTEREST OF THE VISIT IS THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND. HERE THE CONGRESSMEN WILL WANT REASSURANCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DELAY, OR ANTI-NATIONALIST BIAS, IN THE SPENDING OF US TAX DOLLARS. THEY MAY ALSO RAISE THE QUESTION OF A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. DONNELLY AND OTHER SUPPORTERS OF THE FUND ON THE HILL WILL HAVE A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SECURING MONEY FOR THE FUND IN FY 89 AND BEYOND. ANYTHING WHICH WE CAN DO TO PROVIDE THE CONGRESSMEN WITH ARGUMENTS WHICH THEY CAN USE BACK HERE WILL BE

VERY WELCOME

11. FINALLY, MR VIGGERS MAY LIKE TO BRING THE CONGRESSMEN UP TO DATE ON THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE, FOLLOWING THE ENNISKILLEN AND EKSUND INCIDENTS. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, MR VIGGERS MAY WISH TO EXPLAIN HOW HMG SEES THE WAY FORWARD ON THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY IF THE QUOTE TALKS ABOUT TALKS UNQUOTE BREAK DOWN, AND DESCRIBE THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE UNDER THE AGREEMENT.

12. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO PS/MR VIGGERS, BURNS (NIO (L)) AND LEACH (SIL DIVISION, NIO (L)) : NIO (B) PLEASE ADVANCE TO SIR K BLOOMFIELD, AND FELL AND WILSON (DED).

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SOME SORT OF DIVULGED SOURCE FOR THE WACBIDE PRINCIPLES. IS THAT
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WEEKEND 26/01/1974

MEETING WITH MAYOR AND LOCAL IDS
TRAVEL TO CAGWAY
THURSDAY ST JAMES

DINNER GIVEN BY SDRS
VISIT TO EVROCKINE WEST

THURSDAY 26/01/1974