

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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IMMEDIATE

7/8/1979

TO WASHINGTON FROM HQ
FOR BURKE FROM SIEV

HEREWITH STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND ISSUED THIS EVENING, 7 AUG.

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PSS
Mr. McLaughlin
Mr. O'Higgins
S. J. Murray
Mr. Siev
Amb. London.

QUOTE

1. I SAW GOVERNOR CAREY AT HIS REQUEST ON 2 AUGUST, AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THE NATURE OF THE INITIATIVE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY BEGUN IN NORTHERN IRELAND, EMPHASISING THE NEED FOR PRIVATE, PATIENT NEGOTIATION WITH THE POLITICAL LEADERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. I STRESSED THAT ANY SETTLEMENT HAD TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN ULSTER.

2. THIS TALK WAS ONE OF MANY I HAVE HAD SINCE TAKING OFFICE WITH CONCERNED PARTIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND BEYOND. I AM ANXIOUS TO LISTEN TO ANY VIEWS WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL, AND AS IS KNOWN I HAVE TALKED NOT ONLY TO NUMEROUS POLITICIANS AND OTHERS IN ULSTER BUT ALSO TO MICHAEL O'KENNEDY AND GARRET FITZGERALD FROM THE REPUBLIC AND SENATOR MOYNIHAN FROM THE U.S.

3. AFTER THE MEETING GOVERNOR CAREY SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF I WERE TO VISIT NEW YORK FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PRIVATE MEETING

WITH HIS COLLEAGUES AT WHICH I WOULD EXPLAIN TO THEM, AS I HAD DONE TO HIM, THE THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY POSED BY THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF THE PROVISIONAL IRA, AND THE URGENT NECESSITY OF DEALING WITH THEIR TERRORIST CAMPAIGN. I SAID I WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER THIS, AND RAISED NO OBJECTION WHEN GOVERNOR CAREY MOOTED THE POSSIBILITY OF MICHAEL O'KENNEDY BEING PRESENT. IT WAS LEFT THAT THE GOVERNOR WOULD WRITE TO ME WITH A FIRM PROPOSAL WHICH I WOULD CONSIDER IN CONSULTATION WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT. I NOW AWAIT THAT LETTER.

4. AT NO TIME WAS THERE ANY QUESTION OF "NEGOTIATING" THE FUTURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND AT SUCH A MEETING. THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE PROVINCE IS A MATTER FOR NEGOTIATION BETWEEN HM GOVERNMENT, THE PARLIAMENT AT WESTMINISTER AND THE PEOPLE OF ULSTER.

5. I AM IN FACT ALREADY CONSIDERING A POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE US TO TRY TO REMOVE THE CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES WHICH STILL SEEMS TO CLOUD THE MINDS OF SOME INTERESTED PARTIES IN AMERICA. I SHOULD ON SUCH A VISIT AIM TO EXPLAIN THE NATURE OF THE POLITICAL INITIATIVE NOW UNDER WAY, AND IN PARTICULAR I SHOULD SEEK TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SUPPORT FROM ALL CONCERNED IN DEALING WITH TERRORISM - WHETHER IN ENSURING THAT THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY, THE LEGALLY CONSTITUTED POLICE FORCE, CAN OBTAIN THE WEAPONS THEY NEED, OR IN DISCOURAGING THE MISGUIDED IDEALISM WHICH PUTS MONEY INTO THE POCKETS OF THE PROVISIONAL IRA AND OTHER TERRORISTS TO SUSTAIN THEIR MURDEROUS CAMPAIGN.

UNQUOTE