

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



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Mr Barry
for me

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TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR ASST SEC NELIGAN FROM CHARGE

CODED MESSAGE	
IMMEDIATE URGENT	
CONFIDENTIAL	
DATE 8/19	TIME 0925
INITIALS [Signature]	

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FURTHER TO OUR TELEX C.195 OF AUGUST 1 AND NEW YORK AND IRISH MEDIA REPORTS THERE FOLLOWS REPORT BY TED SMYTH ON ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. (PERHAPS MR WALSH WILL BE INTERESTED.)

1. STATE DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN US A COPY OF CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT STATE (THIS APPEARS IN ANNEX).
2. THE ESSENTIAL POINTS MADE BY STATE ARE THAT "THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL LOOK INTO THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THESE (RUC) SALES"... "IN LIGHT OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN WE (STATE) ARE UNDERTAKING A REVIEW OF OUR POLICY ON ARMS SALES"... "FOR THE TIME BEING WE ARE TAKING NO ACTION ON EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR THE RUC."
3. QUESTIONS TODAY ON THIS ISSUE LASTED FOR 10 MINUTES AND WERE ASKED BY WIDE VARIETY OF MEDIA INCLUDING WIRE SERVICES AND BBC. THE ASSISTANT SPOKESMAN FOR STATE, TOM RESTON, KEPT TO THE PROPOSED TEXT BUT THERE WERE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT WHEN THE POLICY REVIEW BEGAN AND WHEN IT WILL REPORT FOR WHICH STATE IS RESEARCHING ANSWERS.
4. REGARDING BIAGGI'S CLAIM REPORTED IN THE IRISH INDEPENDENT, THAT THERE WAS "A CLOSED SESSION ON MONDAY OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE" JACK BRADY, VETERAN CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SAID THAT HE HAD INVITED INTERESTED CONGRESSMEN TO ATTEND ON TUESDAY 31 JULY "AN INFORMAL MEETING TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NIMETZ REGARDING STATE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION OF ARMS SALES TO THE RUC." HE SAID THAT THIS COULD IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED AS A "HEARING" IN MYVUUU

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5.

BRADY SAID THAT CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD AT THE LUNCH FOR SENATOR HILLARY AND THAT THERE WAS NO COMMITMENT GIVEN TO BIAGGI ABOUT HEARINGS. HIS REACTION TO CAUCUS CLAIMS IN THE MEDIA WAS ONE OF CONTEMPT FOR THOSE WHO MAKE SUCH CLAIMS WHICH NEWSPAPERS WERE BOUND TO PRINT BECAUSE OF STORY VALUE. BRADY CREDITS HIMSELF WITH A MAJOR ROLE FOR RESISTING PRESSURE FOR HEARINGS FOR FOUR YEARS AND HE SAYS HE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. BUT, HE SAID, CONGRESSMEN CANNOT SIMPLY BE "CLOSED OFF." HE SAID IT WAS A "THRUST AND PARRY" SITUATION AND IT WAS REALLY UNFORTUNATE THAT BIAGGI SHOULD HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WITH SUCH AN ISSUE. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THE BRITISH ON THIS ISSUE.

6.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ZABLOCKI AND THE SPEAKER'S OFFICE STILL HOPE THAT THE SMALL CONCESSION MADE WILL MEET SOME OF THE BIAGGI DEMANDS ON AN ISSUE THAT HAD FIRST BEEN RAISED IN WASHINGTON BY THE SPEAKER. AT THE SAME TIME THE GENERAL ASSERTION IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CONCESSION REGARDING THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE OF HEARINGS.

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HEARINGS.

7. THE SUMMER RECESS BEGINS TOMORROW UNTIL SEPTEMBER 4 AND THE HOPE SEEMS TO BE THAT THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE WILL NOT RECEIVE MUCH FURTHER ATTENTION, UNLESS OF COURSE, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WERE TO MAKE AN APPLICATION FOR THE FURTHER SALE OF ARMS TO THE RUC.

8. BRADY, IS 55 YEARS OLD, WAS EDUCATED AT NOTRE DAME AND STUDIED FOR A PHD IN LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS FROM 1964-67. HE SEEMS GENUINELY SYMPATHETIC TO IRELAND AND ANTIPATHETIC TO "NON-IRISH POLITICIANS" WHO PLAY FOR VOTES. HE SPENT 5 WEEKS ON VACATION IN IRELAND LAST YEAR AND HOPES TO TRAVEL AGAIN IN OCTOBER WHEN IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE SOME INFORMAL BRIEFING FOR HIM. IF IRISH JOURNALISTS REQUIRE AN AUTHORITATIVE BACKGROUND HE SHOULD BE PHONED AT (202) 225-5021. (WHEN DAVID MCKITTERICK WAS IN WASHINGTON HE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM BRADY THAT NO HEARINGS WERE CONTEMPLATED AT PRESENT.)

ANNEX

PRESS GUIDANCE

ARMS SALES TO ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

Q: WHAT IS US POLICY ON THE SALE OF ARMS TO THE POLICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND?

A: OUR POLICY HAS BEEN TO COOPERATE WITH LEGALLY ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CONTROL TERRORISM. WITH RESPECT TO THE EXPORT OF ARMS, EACH REQUEST FOR A LICENSE FOR EXPORT OF ITEMS ON THE MUNITIONS LIST FOR USE IN NORTHERN IRELAND HAS BEEN CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL US POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND OF STRICT IMPARTIALITY IN THE TRAGIC COMMUNAL CONFLICT THERE, AND ONE OF SUPPORT FOR ANY SETTLEMENT WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND COMMUNITY AND THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS. THIS POLICY WAS SPELLED OUT BY THE PRESIDENT IN HIS STATEMENT OF AUGUST 30, 1977, AND REMAINS UNCHANGED.

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Q: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE SALE OF ARMS FOR USE BY THE RUC?

A: A NUMBER OF QUERIES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SALE OF ARMS TO THE RUC. CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI HAS INDICATED THAT THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL LOOK INTO THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THESE SALES. WE ARE COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI ON THIS ISSUE. IN LIGHT OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN, WE ARE UNDERTAKING A REVIEW OF OUR POLICY ON ARMS SALES.

Q: ISN'T THE RUC ACCUSED OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

A: THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY IS THE LEGALLY CONSTITUTED POLICE FORCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ISSUED A YEAR AGO CONCLUDED THAT MALTREATMENT OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS HAD TAKEN PLACE WITH SUFFICIENT FREQUENCY TO WARRANT AN INQUIRY. THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY SET UP BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES ISSUED A REPORT IN MARCH, WHICH INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN EVIDENCE OF SOME MALTREATMENT DURING INTERROGATION. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATE APPLICATION OF MEASURES TO MEET THIS PROBLEM AND PROMPT CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER STEPS.

Q: DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS IN APPROVING THESE LICENSES?

A: YES. IN EACH INSTANCE IN WHICH AN APPLICATION FOR THE SALES OF ARMS FOR USE BY THE RUC WAS APPROVED, IT WAS DETERMINED THERE WAS NO CAUSE BY REASON OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TO DISAPPROVE THE APPLICATION.

Q: BUT IF THERE HAS BEEN SOME EVIDENCE OF MALTREATMENT OF PRISONERS WHY HASN'T THE STATE DEPARTMENT DISAPPROVED THESE APPLICATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS?

A: WE, OF COURSE, DEPLORE ANY MALTREATMENT OF PERSONS IN POLICE CUSTODY ANYWHERE. HOWEVER, IN THIS SITUATION, WE BELIEVE THE BRITISH ARE TRYING TO MEET THE PROBLEM OF ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF PERSONS SUSPECTED OF COMMITTING ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM. WE CONCLUDED THAT THE SITUATION DID NOT JUSTIFY REFUSING TO SELL WEAPONS TO THE RUC — THE LEGALLY-CONSTITUTED POLICE FORCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

Q: ISN'T THE RUC A PROTESTANT ORGANIZATION?

A: THE RUC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND — PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC, AND OTHERS — AGAINST CRIMES AND ACTS OF TERRORISM. MOST OF THE RUC'S PERSONNEL ARE PROTESTANT, BUT THE RUC HAS BEEN TRYING TO INCREASE ITS RECRUITMENT OF CATHOLICS. MOST RESPONSIBLE AND MODERATE LEADERS IN LONDON, DUBLIN AND BELFAST SUPPORT THE POLICY OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO TURN THE SECURITY PROBLEM OVER TO THE RUC AND PHASE OUT THE SECURITY ROLE OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT THE US IS NOT TAKING ANY ACTION, FOR THE TIME BEING, ON REQUEST FOR THE SALE OF ARMS FOR USE BY THE POLICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND?

A: AS NOTED EARLIER, A REVIEW OF OUR ARMS SALES POLICY IS UNDERWAY AND, FOR THE TIME BEING, WE ARE TAKING NO ACTION ON EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR THE RUC.

Q: ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF ARMS TO THE BRITISH ARMY?

A: NO. WE MAKE AVAILAM+.256

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Q: ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF ARMS TO THE BRITISH ARMY?

A: NO. WE MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF DEFENSE MATERIAL FOR THEIR OVERALL GLOBAL INVENTORY. THE UNITED KINGDOM IS ONE OF OUR CLOSEST PARTNERS IN THE NATO ALLIANCE AND PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN OUR COMMON DEFENSE. OUR DEFENSE COOPERATION IS NOT LIMITED TO JUST THE ALLIANCE OR TO OUR IMPORTANT DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS IN THE UK BUT EXTENDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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END OF MESSAGE
2 AUGUST 1979