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DATE DMS

URGENT

TO HQ
FOR A/S NELIGAN

FROM LONDON
FROM DEMPSEY

WADE GERY TOLD ME ON FRIDAY THAT MINISTERS WERE IN "PRETTY GOOD HEART" ABOUT THE NORTHERN IRELAND SITUATION. THEY WERE RELEIVED THAT THE UDA HAD DECIDED NOT TO JOINT WITH DR. PAISLEY TODAY. THEIR MAIN WORRY WAS THAT IF PAISLEY SUCCEEDED, HE WOULD WANT FURTHER DAYS OF ACTION. IF THIS HAPPENED, MINISTERS MIGHT BEGIN TO FEEL THE NEED FOR GESTURES. THE SENDING OF THE SPEARHEAD BATTALION TO NORTHERN IRELAND WAS, OF COURSE, A GESTURE OF A KIND BUT THE REAL OBJECTIVE WAS TO RELEASE POLICE FOR TODAY'S EVENT AND TO PERMIT AN OVERWHELMING POLICE PRESENCE. THE ATTACK ON PRIOR AT THE BRADFORD FUNERAL COULD HAVE BEEN VERY SERIOUS.

END
PD 23/11/81
TIME: 17.41