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IMMEDIATE
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20.12.83

TO HQ
FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LILLIS

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FROM LONDON *Comms (A.S.)*
FROM AMBASSADOR DORR *Mr. J. Shuley*

CODED MESSAGE
IMMEDIATE URGENT
CONFIDENTIAL
DATE 20/12/83 TIME 1736
INITIALS J. Bailey

HARRODS BOMB INCIDENT
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AS I TOLD YOU ON THE PHONE I ALREADY VISITED THE INJURED IN ONE HOSPITAL, ST STEPHENS FULHAM, ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON THE DAY AFTER THE BOMB ATTACK AND I TALKED ALSO WITH NURSES AND DOCTORS IN THE HOSPITAL. THE OTHER HOSPITAL - WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL - ASKED ME AT THAT TIME TO DEFER A VISIT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY, MONDAY (AS THEY WERE ASKING OTHER DIGNITARIES TO DO) BECAUSE OF THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE PATIENTS. IN THE EVENT IT DID NOT PROVE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL ON MONDAY AS I HAD HOPED BUT I VISIT THE INJURED AT THE WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL THIS AFTERNOON (TUESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER).

I BELIEVE I SAW ALL OF THOSE INJURED EXCEPT FOR ONE VERY SERIOUSLY INJURED POLICE CONSTABLE WHO HAD TO BE TAKEN FOR ANOTHER OPERATION TODAY. I DID, HOWEVER, SEE ANOTHER INJURED POLICE CONSTABLE.

IN ALL CASES BOTH IN FULHAM AND WESTMINSTER HOSPITALS I

WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE INJURED AND FOUND NO RESENTMENT. I HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT THEY MIGHT FIND A PARADE OF VISITORS SEEKING TO EXPRESS SYMPATHY AS SOMETHING TROUBLESOME BUT ON THE CONTRARY THEY GENERALLY COMMENTED THAT IT HELPED TO BOOST THEIR MORALE.

AS I TOLD YOU ON THE PHONE I THOUGHT IT RIGHT NOT TO SEEK PUBLICITY FOR THESE VISITS. THE PURPOSE OF MY PRESENT TELEX HOWEVER IS TO MENTION TO YOU THAT, UNLIKE THE FULHAM HOSPITAL ON SUNDAY, WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL EVEN TODAY STILL HAS A PRESS "STAKEOUT" AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WHO TOOK ME AROUND I SPOKE WITH THE JOURNALIST CONCERNED FOR SOME 7 OR 8 MINUTES IN THE LOBBY ON MY WAY OUT. THOSE PRESENT INCLUDED REPORTERS FOR THE DAILY MAIL AND LONDON BROADCASTING (THE LATTER WITH A TAPE RECORDER).

AMONG THE QUESTIONS PUT TO ME WAS WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY RESENTMENT ON THE PART OF PATIENTS. THE QUESTIONS, HOWEVER, COVERED A BROAD RANGE. IN MY REPLIES I REFERRED TO SUCH POINTS AS THE TAOISEACH'S MESSAGE ON SATURDAY LAST, THE CONCERN AND SYMPATHY OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, OUR SENSE OF SHARED TRAGEDIES OVER THIS PAST WEEK IN BRITAIN, IN THE REPUBLIC AND IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE NEED FOR COMMON ACTION ON THE SECURITY FRONT, THE NEED ALSO FOR POLITICAL ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH IS A HISTORIC LEGACY TO THE PEOPLES OF BOTH ISLANDS AND FROM WHICH THE INFECTION IS NOW SPREADING TO EFFECT ALL OF US. QUESTIONED AS TO THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT I SPOKE OF MY HUMAN SYMPATHY AND CONCERN, MY WISH AS A REPRESENTATIVE TO GIVE PRACTICAL EXPRESSION TO THE TAOISEACH'S MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY AND CONCERN TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER AND MY SENSE AT A HUMAN LEVEL OF IDENTIFYING WITH THE VICTIMS RATHER THAN THE BOMBERS.

I ALSO FOUND IT POSSIBLE IN ANSWER TO ONE QUESTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INITIATIVE IN RESPONSE TO THE BOMB INCIDENT TO EXPLAIN A LITTLE ABOUT THE FORUM AND ITS WORK.

I AM NOT SURE HOW EXACTLY WHAT I SAID MAY BE REPORTED BUT I FEEL I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW IN ADVANCE ABOUT THE CONTINUING PRESS INTEREST IN MY VISIT.

END END END AUAXIQTJTYARNVHIOE

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