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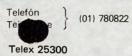
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Tagairt Reference



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2. Dublin 2.

it hales

SECRET

/9 November, 1987.

Mr. D. Nally, Secretary to the Government, Government Buildings, Merrion St., Dublin 2.

Dear Dermot,

Eksund

I attach a telex received from the FCO London on the COREU system.

It is worth drawing to your attention as the most explicit and definite information which this Department has received from the FCO (no doubt such information has already been forwarded in the police channel) and because of the suggestion that Foreign Ministers might discuss the matter next Monday. The second point is being dealt with in the Political Division.

Yours sincerely,

Declan O'Donovan.

To see attached telex please.
This office is likely to
surface at the European lavul

intopenhagen.

a At PSS FROM LON COREU TO COPENHAGEN COREU PRIORITE A/S Pallayler INFO ALL COREU PRIORITE U. O. Survan CPE ON 500 copy her Nally 72 NOVEMBER 87 U. Negwe (O / Turcis for information U. Ryan (Sub). SECRET 19.4.87 FROM LON COREU TO COPENHAGEN COREU PRIORITE INFO ALL COREU PRIORITE POR INFORMATION CPE/LON SOR 181620Z NOVEMBER 87 SEIZURE OF THE 'EKSUND' IN ADVANCE OF ANY DISCUSSION WHICH MINISTERS MIGHT WISH TO HAVE AT THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION MINISTERIAL MEETING ON 23 NOVEMBER, PARTNERS MAY WISH TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: 1. AFTER AERIAL SURVEILLANCE BY FRENCH CUSTOMS THE QUOTE EKSUND UNQUOTE WAS ARRESTED ABOUT 2122 ON 32 OCTOBER NEAR ROSCOFF. 2. FIVE IRISHMEN WERE ARRESTED AND INITIALLY IDENTIFIED AS: HOPKINS, ADRIAN A) CAIRNS, HENRY 8) FINN, WILLIAM C) BOYLE, DENNIS D) FRIEL, EDWARD E) OF THESE, THREE WERE LATER IDENTIFIED UNDER THEIR REAL NAMES AS DOGHERTY, JAMES ANDREW (ALIAS BOYLE) A) CLEARY, GABRIAL (ALIAS FINN) B) C) COLL, JAMES (ALIAS FRIEL) ALL THREE ARE KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL IRA. 3. A FULL INVENTORY OF THE SHIP'S CARGO, WHICH CONTAINED NOTHING BUT ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES, HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED, BUT THE MATERIAL, ABOUT 120 TONS REPRESENTED AN APPROX VALUE OF US DOLLARS FIVE MILLION AND INCLUDED TWENTY SAM 75, ONE THOUSAND AK GUNS, SEVENTEEN DSHK ANTI-AIRCRAFT HEAVY MACHINE GUNS AND TWO TONS OF SEMTEX EXPLOSIVE. IT IS CONFIRMED THAT THE EKSUND WAS LOADED IN TRIPOLI ON 14 OCTOBER BY LIBYAN TROOPS. MOST TRACES OF ORIGIN AND SERIAL NUMBERS WERE REMOVED AND REPAINTED AND BOXES OF CHINESE ORIGIN WERE RECONDITIONED BY THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES. FOUR OTHER ARMS SHIPMENTS PRECEDED THAT OF THE EKSUND, TWO SHIPMENTS IN 1985 AND TWO IN 1986. TOGETHER WITH THE EKSUND THESE SHIPMENTS TOTALLED SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES TO A VALUE OF APPROX US DOLLARS FIFTY-FIVE MILLION. THE PRESENCE OF THE SHIP AND CARGO ON LIBYAN TERRITORY AND THE INSCRIPTIONS ON SOME OF THE BOXES (TRIPOLI-CN81001-THE DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY PROCUREMENT OF LIBYA) LEAVE NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER OF LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN THIS ARMS TRAFFIC WHICH WAS CLEARLY DESTINED TO MAKE UP AN ARSENAL FOR PIRA. AT THE MOMENT PART OF THE ARMS ALREADY DELIVERED IS BELIEVED TO BE CONCEALED IN TRELAND. COREU LOR FIM. DE TEXTE