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To: Mr. Teahon

From: Dermot Gallagher

Date: **27 July 1999**

Pages: 1 + 2

Washington Report

-- Arrest of four people by the FBI in South Florida in connection will illegal transfer of weapons.

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PSM; PSMS; PSSG; Messrs., Teahon, Mansergh & Dalton; Ambassadors London & Washington; Joint Secretary; Counsellors A-I

27 July 1999

For Secretary Gallagher from Ambassador

1. To confirm our conversation last night: Dick Norland of NSC told me that FBI had arrested four people in South Florida yesterday in connection with the illegal transfer of weapons. The weapons intercepted (a few dozen handguns and shotguns) were intended for a Republican group but it was not yet clear which one. Efforts to acquire more advanced weaponry (machine guns etc) had been interdicted. The suspects had attempted to mail the weapons over a number of weeks.

2. Norland listed two of the suspects as:

   (i) Siobhan Browne, born Cork, aged about 34
   (ii) Anthony Smyth, born Belfast, aged about 42

   He named a third suspect as Conor Anthony Claxton (origin uncertain) and there was a fourth, whom Norland was not able to identify. (Presumably details are already available on police channels as British security forces were

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also involved).

3. One packet of weapons had been addressed to Eamon Moore, 23 Stoney Road, Oldcastle, Co Meath.

4. The US will refer any press queries to the US attorneys office for details and propose to confine any more general comments to denouncing any attempt to add to the capacity for violence in Ireland and US determination to prevent that.

END

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