



RESTRICTED

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01- 233 5998

20 FEB 76

29



DKM  
NEW  
J.B.  
Carle

T M Roberts Esq  
Head of Departmental Information Services  
Stormont Castle  
BELFAST  
BT4 3ST

Your reference

Our reference

Date 18 February 1976

FRANK STAGG

1. Last month, in correspondence about information work on Northern Ireland in the United States, BIS New York again drew attention to the value in this connection of "appeals to the United States public from Ministers in Dublin and the Hierarchy of the Catholic Church in Ireland. This often gets through better than we can to United States Catholics."
2. The funeral arrangements planned for Frank Stagg are a cynical propaganda exercise which will be an affront to most decent people. In this country, Bishop Moverley made it clear a fortnight ago that if there was any hint of a political demonstration, there would be no requiem mass. Catholic bishops tend to stick together on religious matters, and my own guess is that many of the Irish hierarchy are also troubled and unhappy by the impending celebrations, carrying as they do the threat of violence and retaliation. It is possible that some of them may be provoked to express themselves in condemnation of the terrorism for which Stagg and the Provisionals stand.
3. If they do, we could make good use of it. We hope therefore that your staff, who have always been such a splendid help in these matters, will watch out and telex back to the COI and myself anything of this sort they see that might be potentially useful.
4. In this connection, they may find it encouraging to know that we have always found their material of great value. Indeed it was their report of the Armagh interdenominational meeting that was the first to reach the Vatican and stimulated the Pope to send his recent message to Cardinal Conway.

A G L Turner  
Guidance & Information  
Policy Department

cc: Mr Middleton - NIO, Belfast  
Mr Seaman - NIO, London  
Mr Goulty - RID  
Mr Knight-Smith - IRD

RESTRICTED