

NOTE FOR FILES

Mr. North (Home Office) telephoned this evening to say that the Home Secretary - now in Northern Ireland - acting on his own responsibility considered that the pirate stations should be jammed. In consequence, BBC equipment was likely to be requisitioned at short notice. I drew Mr. North's attention to the following points:

- (i) that in jamming the pirates there was a risk of jamming ~~the~~ services of radio in Eire;
- (ii) that the pirates might shift frequency, and the jamming would have to follow the shift;
- (iii) that it was possible that the pirates might respond by jamming BBC transmissions. I was advised that it need not be difficult for them to do so.

Mr. North took note of these points. He said that the Home Secretary might not have been aware of (iii) but he would 'phone Northern Ireland to make sure that he was.

I spoke to Mr. Lamb (BBC) and told him that there was now an expectation that equipment would be requisitioned. He said that the BBC would ask what were the powers under which the act of requisition was to be made. I recalled my discussion with Mr. Redmond, who had said that the BBC would protest, but submit graciously. Mr. Lamb said that this had been on the assumption that the act of requisitioning was founded on proper powers. I said I would convey the BBC's reaction to the Home Office.

I told Mr. North, who said that he would make sure that Northern Ireland were ready to reply to the BBC's question.

becl

(D. G. C. LAWRENCE)
28th August 1969

Copy to: Mr. North (Home Office)
Mr. Lamb (BBC)
Mr. F. Wood
Mr. Gottlieb (on return)