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TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR DONLON FROM LILLIS

UUUA IJMKO

CODED MESSAGE
IMMEDIATE/URGENT
CONFIDENTIAL 30
DATE 7-8-78
INITIALS Colligan

THE REVEREND MARTIN SMYTH WAS RECEIVED YESTERDAY BY SENATOR KENNEDY. MR SMYTH WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND HIS SESSION WITH THE SENATOR WAS IN PRIVATE. THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF THE EXCHANGES IS BASED ON A BRIEF VERBAL REPORT BY THE SENATOR TO AN AIDE. WE WOULD HOPE TO SEE COPY OF A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT BY THE SENATOR HIMSELF AT A LATER STAGE.

THE SENATOR AT THE OUTSET DREW SMYTH'S ATTENTION TO SEVERAL OF HIS OWN STATEMENTS DISCOURAGING SUPPORT FOR VIOLENCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. HE ALSO GAVE TO SMYTH COPY OF THE RESEARCH PAMPHLET HE COMMISSIONED FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROTESTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN HERITAGE.

SENATOR KENNEDY TOLD SMYTH THAT ONE OF THE REASONS HE PARTICULARLY WISHED TO SEE HIM WAS THAT MR HUME HAD RECOMMENDED THAT HE DO SO. HE SAID THAT HUME HAD DESCRIBED SMYTH AS A MAN OF SINCERITY.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE SALIENT POINTS MADE BY MR SMYTH IN KENNEDY'S VIEW:

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- (1) HE WAS SEVERELY CRITICAL OF THE SDLP WHICH HE SAID WAS LOSING CONTACT WITH ITS GRASS-ROOTS AND MOREOVER WAS UNABLE TO HOLD TOGETHER ON POLICY WHEN IT CAME TO THE POINT OF NEGOTIATION. HE CONTRASTED THE SDLP WITH THE OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY WHICH HE SAID WAS DISCIPLINED IN POLICY AND IN NEGOTIATION AND MOREOVER MAINTAINED EXCELLENT LINKS WITH ITS GRASS-ROOTS. HE INSTANCED THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN HUME AND DEVLIN AS A GLARING EXAMPLE OF THE SDLP'S TENDENCY TOWARDS DISUNITY.
- (2) TOWARDS THE END OF THE CONVERSATION SMYTH SAID THAT HE FELT THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME HOPE OF POLITICAL MOVEMENT FOLLOWING A BRITISH ELECTION. HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT SORT OF DEVELOPMENT HE THOUGHT EITHER LIKELY OR POSSIBLE.

