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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.
Dublin 2.

SECRET

19 November, 1987.

D. Nally

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

Declan O'Donovan.

Taoiseach

To see attached telex please.

This affair is likely to surface at the European Council in Copenhagen.

DR

19/11

FROM LON COREU
TO COPENHAGEN COREU PRIORITE
INFO ALL COREU PRIORITE
CPE/ON 500
181 02Z NOVEMBER 87

cc #1 PSS
A/S Gallagher
Mr. O. Burwan
Mr. Neff (D/Pucci)
Mr. Ryan (Seab.)
J.D. 13/4.

Please also
copy Mr Nally
for information

Julian O. Lannan
19. 11. 87

SECRET
FROM LON COREU
TO COPENHAGEN COREU PRIORITE
INFO ALL COREU PRIORITE
CPE/LON 500
181600Z NOVEMBER 87

FOR INFORMATION
Mr Justin Vela
Dillon.

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 2100 ON 30 OCTOBER NEAR ROSCOFF.
2. FIVE IRISHMEN WERE ARRESTED AND INITIALLY IDENTIFIED AS:
 - A) HOPKINS, ADRIAN
 - B) CAIRNS, HENRY
 - C) FINN, WILLIAM
 - D) BOYLE, DENNIS
 - E) FRIEL, EDWARD

OF THESE, THREE WERE LATER IDENTIFIED UNDER THEIR REAL NAMES AS

- A) DOGHERTY, JAMES ANDREW (ALIAS BOYLE)
- B) CLEARY, GABRIEL (ALIAS FINN)
- 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 7S, ONE THOUSAND AK GUNS, SEVENTEEN DSHK ANTI-AIRCRAFT HEAVY MACHINE GUNS AND TWO TONS OF SEMTEX EXPLOSIVE.

X 4. IT IS CONFIRMED THAT THE EKSUND WAS LOADED IN TRIPOLI ON 14 OCTOBER BY LIBYAN TROOPS.

5. MOST TRACES OF ORIGIN AND SERIAL NUMBERS WERE REMOVED AND REPAINTED AND BOXES OF CHINESE ORIGIN WERE RECONDITIONED BY THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES.

6. 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.

7. 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

IRELAND.

COREU LON
FIN DE TEXTE
VVVV
NNNN