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UNCLASSIFIED  
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TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2972 OF 5 OCTOBER  
INFO PRIORITY NIO LONDON, NIO BELFAST, DUBLIN

MB.

BIS TELEGRAM NO 26 OF 28 AUGUST.

NORTHERN IRELAND: CBS QUOTE 60 MINUTES UNQUOTE

1. AS FORESHADOWED IN BIS TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE, A SEGMENT OF CBS 60 MINUTES LAST NIGHT WILL HAVE CAUSED THE IRA AND NORAID CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT. THE ITEM DEMONSTRATED TELLINGLY THE IRAS LINKS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN, AND MIDDLE EAST TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS ITS MARXIST AIMS.

2. INCORPORATING SOME SKILFULLY EDITED INTERVIEWS WITH, AMONG OTHERS, PETER MCMULLEN (AN EX-MEMBER OF THE IRA, CURRENTLY SEEKING ASYLUM IN THE USA), CLAIRE STERLING (AUTHOR OF THE TERROR NETWORK) AND PAUL WILKINSON, ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY, THE REPORT ARGUED THAT THE IRA HAS ANOTHER FACE NOT KNOWN TO IRISH-AMERICANS. THE MURDERER OF LORD MOUNTBATTEN WAS TRAINED BY SOVIET PERSONNEL IN LIBYA, THE REPORT STATED: QADHAFI SUPPORTS THE IRA; AND THE SOVIET UNION USES INTER-MEDIARIES TO FINANCE THE GROUP. CITING THESE AND OTHER INSTANCES OF THE IRAS LINKS WITH LEFT WING GROUPS, INCLUDING RED BRIGADE AND BAADERMEINHOF, IT WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT THE LONGTERM AIM OF THE IRA AND ITS SUPPORTERS WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARXIST STATE. BOTH BERNADETTE MCALISKEY AND RORY OBRADY INDICATED, UNDER TOUGH QUESTIONING, THEIR SOCIALIST AIMS, AND MCALISKEY IN PARTICULAR WILL HAVE BEEN SEEN BY MANY IRISH-AMERICANS IN A VERY UNFLATTERING LIGHT. THE REPORT ALSO UNDERLINED THE LACK OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE IRA BOTH IN THE REPUBLIC AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO EXAGGERATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS THE LEAD SEGMENT, ON ONE OF AMERICAS TOP-RATED WEEKLY PROGRAMMES, WITH AN AVERAGE AUDIENCE A WEEK OF ABOUT FORTY MILLION. FOLLOWING THE GENERALLY FAVOURABLE TELEVISION, REPORTS OF THE END OF THE HUNGER-STRIKE, AND MR BUTLERS USEFUL INTERVIEW ON NBCS NATIONWIDE TODAY SHOW, THE 60 MINUTES ITEM WILL GIVE NORAID GROUNDS FOR CONSIDERABLE ANXIETY AT THE WAY IN WHICH THE IRA WAS PORTRAYED ON ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEDIA OUTLETS IN THE UNITED STATES.

/TRANSCRIPT



TRANSCRIPT AND VIDEOCASSETTE FOLLOW FROM BIS BY BAG TO INFORMATION DEPARTMENT. WE ARE SENDING CASSETTES TO CONSULS-GENERAL, AND ARE DRAWING THE PROGRAMME TO THE ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE CONTACTS, INCLUDING THOSE ON THE HILL.

HENDERSON

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