



BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

29 July, 1972

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN... *[Handwritten mark]*

The Honorable
Richard M Nixon
President of the United States of America

Dear Mr President,

The Prime Minister has asked me to pass
... to you the attached message.

*Yours sincerely,
Cromer.*



Text of message from the Prime Minister to the President

I was grateful to you for your message of 6 July about Dr Kissinger's discussions in Peking. I read this with considerable interest, and particularly in view of Sir Alec Douglas-Home's plans to visit China in the autumn I am very glad that we can continue to exchange impressions in this way. We have also kept in touch over recent months about the situation in Northern Ireland which, you may recall, we discussed in Bermuda. I therefore wanted to let you know at once about a decision which we have taken to launch certain operations in the province, designed to neutralise the terrorists and gunmen there.

Since Her Majesty's Government took over full responsibility for the Government of Northern Ireland in March, we have made every effort in our power to end violence, to encourage all sections of the community to take part in the search for a political solution to the problems of the province, and to work for reconciliation between them. In pursuit of these aims we have made a substantial reduction in the numbers of those interned, have conducted talks with all sections of the population, are planning for local elections later this year on the basis of proportional representation and have invited views on political solutions from all quarters with the aim of holding a conference in the autumn. At the same time the activity of the security forces has been kept to a low level even at the risk of much misunderstanding by those who felt threatened by violence. In short, everything possible has been done to set the affairs of the province on a new course.

Unfortunately, our efforts have been thwarted by the actions of the provisional IRA. Despite a brief ceasefire, they have shown that they are determined to continue their campaign of violence, that they have the deliberate aim of preventing reconciliation and that they are prepared to use every method of intimidation to deter the Roman Catholic community from joining in the search for political solutions. In doing so, they have inevitably provoked extremists among the Protestants who have responded to the IRA challenge by a measure of violence, and by setting up their own barricades. This has produced a dangerous situation in which violence is escalating, and law and order progressively breaking down. Moreover, the provisionals showed by their carefully planned and concerted campaign of explosions in Belfast on Friday, 21 July a callous disregard for the lives of men, women and /children



children in all communities. These murderous attacks, when added to a similar explosive campaign in Londonderry which has wrecked the centre of the city, and to a high intensity of shooting throughout Northern Ireland, have caused a level of destruction and of disorder which is bringing the life of the province progressively to a halt. At the same time the actions of the terrorists have aroused feelings of horror and revulsion among Roman Catholics and Protestants alike in Northern Ireland.

In this situation, the possibility of political progress has been receding, and the prospect has become one of an increasing domination of all sections of the community by extremists and still more destruction and violence. We have therefore decided that we must make a new and determined effort to restore law and order throughout the province. This will mean taking effective action against the terrorists: and to do so we need to end a situation in which they have safe havens from which they can come out at will to destroy and shoot, and where they can be sure of intimidating the peaceable members of their communities. We have therefore given orders for operations to be undertaken in Londonderry and Belfast to this end. Our operations are of course aimed only at the terrorists and gunmen, and we intend that all barricades, both those set up by Protestant extremists and those set up by the IRA, should come down immediately.

Meanwhile our political objectives in Northern Ireland remain the same. It is our intention that, as a result of these operations against the gunmen, political progress will be easier to achieve. Our determination to bring about peace and reconciliation among the communities in Northern Ireland is unaltered.

I am grateful to you and your Administration for having consistently shown understanding of the difficult problems we face in Northern Ireland, and the sincerity of the efforts we have been making to resolve them. I welcomed the opportunity to discuss the whole issue with Governor Reagan on his recent visit and to learn how it is regarded in the United States. I do not underestimate the Irish pressures which can be exerted there. What we are now undertaking is in no way in pursuance of a sectarian policy against the Roman Catholic minority, but is aimed simply at removing or neutralising the terrorists and providing a better chance for peaceful moves towards a political solution of the problems of the province.

29 July, 1972

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC	RECD	LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION OFF
MO DA	MO DA HR	5874	<i>[Signature]</i>
7 29	7 31 14		

TO: PRES FROM: ELIOT _____ U _____ NO FORN _____ NODIS _____
 KISSINGER _____ ROGERS, W _____ LOU _____ BUO _____ EXDIS _____
 HAIG _____ LAIRD, M _____ C EYES ONLY _____ LIMDIS _____
 Cromer, Earl 'S _____ CODE WORD _____ RES DATA _____
 TS _____ SENSITIVE _____

SUBJECT: *Cromer relates British Prime Minister's msg to Nixon re Northern Ireland situation.*

REFERENCE: S/S _____ OTHER _____ NOT XEROXED _____
 APP'TS: PRES _____ HAK _____ TALKER _____ MEMCON _____ DATE REQ. _____

SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTION/ACTION

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION			ACTION REQUIRED	
	ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR	
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/HAIG				MEMO FOR HAK _____ ()
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES. _____ ()
FAR EAST				REPLY FOR _____ SIGNATURE _____ ()
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				FOR DISTRIBUTION/DISPATCH _____ ()
NR EAST/NORTH AFRICA				MEMO TO _____ ()
EUROPE/CANADA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		RECOMMENDATIONS _____ ()
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO _____ ()
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO STATE _____ ()
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY <i>7</i> _____ ()
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE _____ ()
LR PLANNING				DUE DATE: <i>8/4</i>
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				COMMENTS: (Including Special Instructions)
NSC PLANNING				<i>to State?</i>
CONGRESSIONAL				<i>to State for comment?</i>

RMW

INTERNAL/INTERIM ROUTING

DATE	FROM	TO	S	ACTION REQUIRED	CY TO
		RGL		<i>memo to Pres / answer?</i>	
<i>8/2</i>	<i>SONN</i>	<i>HAK</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pres for info (8/4)</i>	
<i>8/8</i>				<i>HAK approved second local ltr</i>	
<i>8/8</i>	<i>NSC/PS</i>	<i>SONN</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Memo to Pres (8/12)</i>	
<i>8/11</i>	<i>HS</i>	<i>HAK</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pres to use ltr to Heath (8/12)</i>	
<i>8/14 1972</i>	<i>Adl</i>	<i>Pres</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sign ltr to Heath</i>	
<i>8/17</i>				<i>Pres ltr to Heath</i>	

DISPOSITION

CROSS REF WITH _____ NOTIFY _____ DATE _____
 SEE LOG _____ DISPATCH: LETTER/MEMO
 JOINED BY LOG _____ COPIES: (AS MARKED ABOVE)
 SPECIAL FILE RQMT: _____ SA, _____ HP, _____ HM *8/17/12*
 SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMENTS: *ORIGINAL TO MR SONNENFELD FOR HANDLING/DELVY.*
 SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: YES _____ NO _____

MICROFILM DATA	
DO	<i>[Signature]</i>
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AUG 21 1972

NO CYS TO STATE