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PS/SofSWI  
PS/Michael Ancram  
PS/Sir John Wheeler  
PS/PUS  
PS/Mr Fell  
PS/Mr Legge DUS(B)  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Wood  
Mr Smyth  
Mr J Steele  
Mr M Williams  
Mr Perry  
Mr MacCabe  
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OF 201630Z FEBRUARY 95  
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(L), NIO(B)

ASST LO 52212  
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Mrs Kenny  
Received .....

SUBJECT: ENGLAND/IRELAND FOOTBALL RIOT  
MY TELNO 66

by [handwritten]  
LD22/2

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SUMMARY

1. WEEKEND PRESS DOMINATED BY THE FALLOUT FROM WEDNESDAY'S RIOT, WITH PREDICTABLE EVIDENCE OF ANGLOPHOBIA. DIVISIONS BETWEEN GARDA AND FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND.

DETAIL

2. THE WEEKEND PRESS GAVE FURTHER DETAILED COVERAGE TO WEDNESDAY EVENING'S RIOT, WITH LENGTHY ANALYSIS OF WHERE THE BLAME LAY. ON LEGAL ADVICE, THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND (FAI) HAVE REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH THE GARDA'S OWN ENQUIRY. SO FAR, THE ONLY PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF CULPABILITY HAS COME FROM THE FAI, WHO ADMIT TO MISTAKES OVER THE SALE OF AWAY TICKETS TO IRISH FANS. REPORTS THAT THE GAME WAS TO BE REPLAYED ON 25 MARCH HAVE BEEN DISCOUNTED.

3. THE AFFAIR HAS PROMPTED A STREAM OF ARTICLES DERIDING ENGLISH SOCIETY AND INSTITUTIONS AS SICK, XENOPHOBIC AND INHERENTLY RACIST WITH AN ALIENATED UNDERCLASS SPAWNED BY THATCHERISM. THIS IS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED: ANGLOPHOBIA IS NEVER FAR BELOW THE SURFACE HERE. BUT THE FALL-OUT FROM THE RIOT WILL NOT QUICKLY BE FORGOTTEN, AND WILL MAKE IRISH PEOPLE MORE READY TO BELIEVE THE WORST ABOUT BRITISH INSTITUTIONS IN FUTURE, FROM THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE PARAS IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO ATTITUDES TOWARDS EUROPE.

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