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OF 201630Z JUNE 96

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SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND: MANCHESTER BOMB - KOHLS' REACTION

SUMMARY

1. Kohl tells national television that Manchester bombers are "blind fanatics". Terrorists should not dictate our actions.

DETAIL

2. Chancellor Kohl was interviewed by ARD (BBC1 equivalent) in Manchester before the Germany-Italy football match there on 19 June. Asked about last weekend's bomb, he said:

"I have spoken to John Major. You know, what has happened here can, unfortunately, happen in many places in the world. (Those responsible are) blind fanatics, who through their destructive mania want to destroy everything that is fun (eg the European Championships). Of course, our thoughts are with the injured. We know that, luckily, no-one was killed. But it is a terrible thing that such fanaticism leads to this sort of result. I think, however - and I am often asked - that if we allow the fanatics and terrorists to dictate where we should hold events such as this, then we are in a very bad state of affairs. I know that it is a risk, but I prefer to take that risk - and I know what I am talking about - rather than allow our actions to be taken out of our own hands."

3. We have informed No 10 separately, by fax.

4. The German press has continued to follow events in Northern Ireland closely. The reporting has been accurate, with the emphasis on the renewed pressure on both Sinn Fein and the peace process as a whole, following the latest bomb. Unionist objections to Senator Mitchell's appointment have also featured prominently. There has

been no further press comment since TUR.

BROOMFIELD

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