

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Sir Stewart  
2. SEC/1



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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2-OCT-1984 15  
PRIVATE OFFICE

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1049  
02 OCT 1984  
MURPHY ROOM  
STORMONT

1 October, 1984

- l.c.c. PS/SJG (8) M
- PS/Mr Scott (78) M
- PS/PNS (78) M
- PS/Sir Ernest Bell M
- Mr Brennan
- Mr Bowen M
- Mr Gwynne M
- Mr Burns
- Mr Doyle (8) M
- Mr Lyon
- Mr Lindsay M

Capture of PIRA Shipment by the Irish Navy 2. See 1022.

The Foreign Secretary has suggested that the Prime Minister might wish to send a message of congratulations to Dr FitzGerald following the successful capture by the Irish Navy last Saturday morning of seven tonnes of arms, ammunition, explosives, and military equipment which was being sent to the PIRA in the trawler 'Marita Anne' by sympathisers in the United States. Sir Geoffrey has already congratulated the Irish Foreign Minister. The Northern Ireland Secretary is being recommended to do the same with Mr Norman, the Irish Minister of Justice. I submit a draft message for the Prime Minister's approval.

Noonan

The Irish were acting on information received from the United States authorities and with the assistance of one of our own NIMROD surveillance aircraft. The five men arrested on the trawler have been charged in Dublin with the unlawful possession of explosives and of having firearms and ammunition with intent to endanger life. The size of the shipment exceeds that captured at the last intervention of this kind in 1973 when the coaster 'Claudia' was caught with a cargo of Libyan arms.

This capture is a badly needed boost to the morale of the Irish security forces whose muddled attempts earlier this year to capture the terrorist kidnappers of Don Tidy were less than reassuring. It will also enable the Irish Government to counter criticism from those in the North who doubt Irish determination to fight the PIRA. In his public reaction to the capture the Taoiseach said that the arms were being imported 'to murder Irish people North and South'. He did not miss the opportunity to address those who had financed the shipment. He said that 'There are still people in the United States who, failing to comprehend the situation in this country, are willing to send arms to murder Irish people, including our police and armed forces'. Noraid have denied all knowledge of this shipment.

I am copying this letter to Graham Sandiford in the Northern Ireland Office.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT: minute/letter/teletype/dispatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Dr Garret Fitzgerald

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Please convey my congratulations to the Irish Security Forces on the success of their operation against PIRA gun runners last Saturday morning. It is heartening to know that seven tonnes of arms have been denied to the terrorists.

Enclosure flag(s).....