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SECRET

Situation in 6 Cos.

Note

The British Ambassador called at his request this afternoon on Mr. J. Molloy, Assistant Secretary. Mr. Molloy asked me to join them.

The Ambassador said that it was quite certain that P.Q.'s would be raised at Westminster on matters arising out of the arms trial. He made particular reference to the moving of guns to Dundalk (during the Ballymurphy riots) and the training of men from Derry at Fort Dunree in Donegal.

The reply would propose to say that these matters had been taken up with the Irish Government and would run along the line that the actions concerned did not appear to have been in accord with peaceful intentions on the part of the Irish Government.

We suggested to the British Ambassador that a more agreeable form of reply, from our point of view, would be to say that the Ambassador "had expressed the British Government's views on such matters to the Irish authorities". The point is that the British phrase implies that some kind of response is expected whereas our phrase would probably close the issue.

We had a few general words about the Taoiseach's visit to New York and his meeting with Mr. Heath. I mentioned that the Taoiseach had met Mr. Heath casually on Saturday morning and had had a second chat with him. I added that on the Saturday morning the Taoiseach had again mentioned his concern about the Housing Executive Bill and that Mr. Heath had said that a serious look would be taken at it.

When parting with the Ambassador I emphasised to him that we were indeed very concerned about this Bill.

E. Gallagher
26/10/1970