

NATIONAL ARCHIVES**IRELAND**

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Title:	Note of 28 November, 1974, on a visit by the British Ambassador to Ireland, Arthur Galsworthy, to the Taoiseach, Liam Cosgrave, to deliver to him a draft text of a statement which the British Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, proposed to make when introducing the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill. Also includes a note of 29 November, 1974, regarding the actual text of Roy Jenkins' message to the House of Commons when introducing the Bill.
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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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1:20 file on new British Act



VISIT BY BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO TAOISEACH

Note:-

The British Ambassador called, by arrangement, on the Taoiseach at 4.00 p.m. yesterday afternoon to deliver to him the attached draft of the text of a statement which the British Home Secretary, Mr. Jenkins, proposed to make in the House of Commons today when introducing the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill.

The Taoiseach said that he would have the statement considered and would convey his views to the Ambassador either later that evening or early this morning.

At the Government meeting held shortly afterwards the statement was discussed and certain provisions in it were agreed. I conveyed these provisions to the British Ambassador who, having contacted London, said that what would now be included in Mr. Jenkins' statement would be the following -

"We are in communication with the Irish Government through the diplomatic channel with a view to arranging further talks and co-operation in the field of security in the light of the provisions of the new Bill."

I told the Ambassador that, so far as we were concerned the revised statement was not open to the objections of the original draft and, as a purely factual narration, seemed acceptable to us.

During the meeting with the Ambassador the Taoiseach raised the present assassination campaign in Northern Ireland with him. He said that so far as we could see there were no visible signs of patrolling by the British army or security forces on or near the Crumlin Road where a lot of the murders were taking place. On the other hand, there were no less than seven checkpoints between the Lower Falls Road and Andersonstown.

The Ambassador said that he did not ^{have} enough information to answer the point made by the Taoiseach in detail but that he would have it looked into. He said that part of the answer might be that some of the patrolling in the Crumlin Road area was being done by plain-clothes units.

The Taoiseach then raised with the Ambassador the question of the form of identification which the British would be requiring as part of their check on entry into British ports. He said that we had prevented Aer Lingus from putting a notice in the paper, the effect of which would have been, in practice, to require Irish people to carry passports if they were travelling to the United Kingdom. The Ambassador said that he was not up-to-date with the arrangements being proposed under the new Bill - which were being worked on with great speed. He said that he would have this matter examined also - he fully appreciated the seriousness of the problem. The matter was raised subsequently with the Ambassador when he called to discuss the Government's attitude on the original draft statement of the Home Secretary. At this meeting, attended by Mr. Donlon of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Donlon again stressed the necessity for the two Governments to keep in touch so that the arrangements, whatever they were, could be worked out with a minimum of fuss

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and a maximum of effectiveness. The matter is being pursued further by the Department of Foreign Affairs, in consultation with the Ambassador.

The Taoiseach also raised with the Ambassador the problem which the Irish Ambassador in London appeared to be encountering in reaching persons of sufficient seniority, quickly, in order to ascertain and consult on security developments. The Ambassador said that the Irish Ambassador's normal contact in the Foreign Office was at present sick with influenza and was available to nobody. Most junior Ministers in the Foreign Office seemed to spend most of their time in Brussels. He, however, noted the Taoiseach's comment carefully.

During the meeting the Ambassador indicated the likely subject of the meeting on security which Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Rees would be requesting.

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28th November, 1974.

[Copies sent confidentially to Mr Ward, Dept. of Justice, and Mr Donlon, Dept. of Foreign Affairs.]

Further note:

I was 'phoned by Mr. Sean Donlon, Department of Foreign Affairs this morning. He says that the actual text of the Jenkins message to the Commons in introducing the Bill yesterday was

"The Government have been in touch since Monday with the Irish Government with a view to arranging further talks and co-operation on security measures".

This is not the text sent to us originally or the text agreed with the Ambassador on Wednesday evening. The difference is perhaps marginal - but, if it is, ~~was~~ it is difficult to see why the British went to such lengths to consult us on that day.

A more important consideration is that they refer to having been in touch with us since Monday. This is completely untrue. The first contacts were on Wednesday. The burden of all this is that the blame for an occurrence caused by British subjects coming from Northern Ireland who have been living in the United Kingdom for various periods of up to about 20 years is somehow being put, by implication, on us. It would be highly desirable in any contacts with the press to set the record right - *again*.

Mr. Donlon is taking up with the Ambassador the textual divergences mentioned in this note.

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29th November 1974