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OIFIG AN AIRE GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

1st April 1977

Dear Private Secretary

Please refer to your letter of 15 March concerning correspondence with Mr. Rory McShane, solicitor for Mr. Seán McKenna.

While this Department is aware of the allegations made in March of last year concerning the abduction of Mr. McKenna, it has not at any stage formally pursued these allegations with the British authorities. The Department was not requested to do so by Mr. McKenna or anyone acting on his behalf and it was our understanding that Garda investigation at the time did not uncover any evidence that Mr. McKenna was in fact apprehended on this side of the Border.

Subject to the views of the Department of Justice, and to any further information which may now be available to that Department, we would suggest that the reply to be sent to Mr. McShane might be limited to informing him that the Garda authorities have no information or evidence establishing that Mr. McKenna was apprehended by the British authorities within the State. We would, however, attach importance to getting a reply to Mr. McShane as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely

Declan Kelly
Private Secretary

Mr. F. Murray
Private Secretary to the Taoiseach
Department of the Taoiseach
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street
Dublin 2

RORY McSHANE, SOLICITOR

Patrick Rory McShane, B.A. Dip. Soc. Stud.

76 HILL STREET
NEWRY

My Ref. RMcS/MQ

Your Ref.

Phone ~~4925~~ 5119

The An Toiseach,
Laim Cosgrave, S.C.,
Dail Eireann,
DUBLIN.

9th March, 1977

Dear Sir,

I act for Mr. Sean McKenna of O'Neill Avenue, Newry, County Down, who at present stands charged with a number of serious offences. My Client instructs me that on or about the 12th day of March, 1976 he was arrested in the Republic of Ireland at Edentubber, Dundalk, County Louth, by Members of H.M. Forces. I understand that this matter was investigated thoroughly by the Local Garda and I wrote to the Superintendent Fahy at Dundalk asking him to provide me with any information he might have in relation to this matter which might help establish that my Client was arrested in the Republic. Superintendent Fahy advises me in letter dated the 3rd March, 1977, that he is unable because of regulations to supply me with any information.

I should be obliged if your own department would supply me with such information as may be in the possession of the Garda or alternatively direct the Garda Superintendent at Dundalk to assist me in any way he may.

This particular case has very serious implication and matters of International Law are clearly involved. I should therefore be obliged for any assistance which you may be able to forward me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Rory McShane

Mr Murphy Miss Murphy

For advice as we would need to obtain
advice from the Minister for
Justice in this case - and from
the Minister for Foreign Affairs.
The other is
being consulted.

16/3/77 P.S. Re
16/3/77