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AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL

8<sup>th</sup> May 1978

Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs

For the Attention of Mr R Siev, Anglo-Irish Section

I wish to report that on Friday, 5th May, Father Denis Faul, who was accompanied by Sister Sarah Clarke, called to see me at the Embassy. In the course of our conversation, the following matters were raised which may be of interest to the Department.

Father Faul said that since the beginning of the year, the security forces in Northern Ireland have developed a new viciousness in their attitude to the Catholic community and have been very much less restrained in their harassment of individuals both in the searching of homes and in their methods of questioning at detention centres. This has been accompanied by the construction of a "wall of silence" around these latest activities. At official level there has been no attempt to investigate what Father Faul is now convinced is a pattern of ill treatment - the only recognition that complaints are made takes the form of short and often vindictive denials - and he also feels that there has been considerable intimidation of non-official sources who have attempted to expose many instances of these recent developments. He then told me that on his journey from Belfast, he had been stopped at Heathrow and questioned about the purpose of his visit and asked for details of his appointments here. He had brought with him a number of copies of his recently published book entitled "The Castlereagh File" and this became the subject of particular interest and comment among the immigration officials. A Special Branch Officer was called to interview him but in the event he did little more than request him to complete an immigration card.

*Mr. Dwyer  
To see pl.  
RUS. 10/5*

*Mr. Dwyer  
To see, please*

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SW1X 7HR  
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*HS 11/5*

*Mr. Griffith (Original 9/23, 22/1, 25/4,  
This should go also 44,  
to Mrs. Hennessy. 65/3  
2/6/78  
12.5*



He said that there appeared to have been a change in attitude at official level regarding the policy of restoring the primacy of the RUC. Over the last few months, the British Army seemed to have again taken a dominant role in security operations and had presented a number of serious problems by their activities in the Turf Lodge area. People still continue to complain about the RUC and local confidence in the RUC, in Father Faul's view, will never be achieved unless they eliminate the routine practice of allowing access to a solicitor only when a suspect has actually made and signed a statement.

Father Faul then turned to the situation in H Block about which he was seriously concerned. He said that he had visited H Block earlier in the week and that conditions had reached an appallingly low level. While he accepted that the Authorities were not anxious to negotiate, he felt that some form of mutually acceptable arbitration was now necessary since there was a real and dangerous risk of sickness and disease developing and spreading to other parts of the Prison. He said that morale among the prisoners was particularly bad. There was a real sense of deprivation which he had not previously experienced but in spite of this he felt that their sense of resistance had been strengthened.

He then referred to Dr Donnell Deeny's letter to the Irish Times on 24 April and repeated the main elements of that letter as confirming his own experience of the situation in Long Kesh. (Copy of letter attached for convenience). He mentioned, in particular, the case of Mr Henry Heaney, who is 66 years of age and whose health has seriously deteriorated over the last few months. He had together with his son received a 15-year sentence for being in possession of explosives. Father Faul believes that while the son was involved, the father is totally innocent. Father Faul had persuaded Archbishop O Fiach to approach the Northern Ireland Secretary with a view to obtaining a pardon but this had been turned down and, according to Faul, in a rather vindictive manner.



This reference to the Secretary of State led Sister Sarah to mention the recent lunch hosted by the Delegate here for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which was attended, as the Department is aware, by, among others, Cardinal Hume, Sir Brian Cubbon, Dr Conor O'Brien and the Anglican Bishop of Southwark. Father Faul wondered if this was an attempt by the Apostolic Delegate to seek the Secretary of State's views on the possible elevation of Archbishop O Fiach to the Cardinalate. He then went on to speak with some disappointment of the Archbishop's attitude towards the security forces since his appointment. He gave me the impression that the Archbishop is reluctant to make any statements on the activities of the security forces and he thought that the Archbishop was too anxious to be everybody's friend. I got the impression that he found it far easier to deal with the Bishop of Armagh and Clonmacnoise with whom he has recently had a good deal of contact. He referred to the address given by Dr Daly to the Pax Christi Conference here some weeks ago (a copy of which I sent to the Department) and mentioned that he had discussed the text of the speech with Dr Daly before the Conference.

Father Faul then raised the case of Garry Kennedy, who has again been charged with membership of the Provisional IRA. Kennedy prints most of Father Faul's publications and of course publishes Republican News as well as the Church of Ireland Gazette. Father Faul felt that his arrest was a further example of the use of the RUC by the Orange Order in the Lurgan area to attack and discredit Catholic businessmen. He thought the whole affair was highly sinister since Kennedy's political reputation was completely associated with the SDLP. He understood that Kennedy had applied for bail and that a hearing would take place on the 8th or 9th of May but he doubted in view of the charges whether he would be successful in his application. In the context of his remarks on Garry Kennedy, he referred to the "provocative" action by the security forces of rounding up the leaders of Provisional Sinn Fein over the last fortnight. The dawn swoops on the 15 of those who had been detained, in



his view, ran the risk of forcing Provisional Sinn Fein to go under ground which would only result in making the situation far more difficult and violent. He strongly expressed the view that this particular development underlined the "political naviete" of the British in the North.

In handing me a copy of his book, "The Castlereagh File" he said that he was convinced that the RUC were still using in part the techniques which had been condemned by the European Court. The contents of The Castlereagh File - a copy of which he said that he has sent to the Minister - had already been given to Amnesty International. He had arranged to call to Amnesty after his call to the Embassy and he said he would be demanding to know precisely what action Amnesty intended to take on the allegations which should, by this time, have been fully processed within the Organisation. He had been disappointed that no firm date had been set for the publication of the Amnesty Report and indeed that there had been no indication that the Report had been submitted to the British Government.

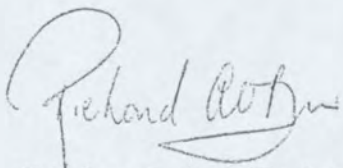
Father Faul then referred to the treatment of a number of the wives of prisoners being held at Crumlin Road. Sister Sarah explained that their complaints had been detailed in a number of statements which she handed to me and copies of which I enclose. He then referred to the case of \_\_\_\_\_ who is serving a 7-year sentence for being in possession of explosives, at Armagh Prison. She was apparently travelling in a car which was stopped and searched and a quantity of explosives was found in the boot of the car. Father Faul said that \_\_\_\_\_ who is 20 years of age, has lost a good deal of weight since her arrival at Armagh and he is concerned that she is not receiving proper medical attention.

Father Faul mentioned that he had met with Lord Longford at the House of Lords prior to coming to the Embassy. Longford apparently spoke at length of his contacts with Paul Shane O'Doherty and expressed his satisfaction that he had been able to persuade O'Doherty to end his protest



in Wormwood Scrubs and indeed to accept a non-violent philosophy of protest in relation to Northern Ireland. This resulted in O'Doherty's letter which received wide publication in the media here. Father Faul has arranged for Lord Longford to visit Belfast within the next few weeks but he said that Longford had been incensed by the fact that he had, in the course of a recent application, been refused permission to enter Long Kesh. Longford had discussed with Father Faul the question of an amnesty for political prisoners both in Britain and in Northern Ireland and he said that this would have to be granted if any agreement to the ending of the present campaign by the Provisionals was ever to emerge.

Towards the end of our conversation Sister Sarah handed me a copy of the statement made by \_\_\_\_\_ to the Association for Legal Justice in the North - a copy of which I enclose. I am also attaching a list of Prevention of Terrorism Act cases with which she has been involved and which she has circulated to some newspapers including the Times with what she said was a suitable covering minute.



Richard A O'Brien  
First Secretary