

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2009/120/1965
Creation Date(s):	30 July 1979
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Access Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

47/4/6
8/4/28

Mr. Swift

1. I refer to the Congressional record for 12 July 1979 from which it now appears certain that the House Foreign Affairs Committee (Mr. Zablocki, chairman) will hold a complete, comprehensive and exhaustive investigation, and closed hearings, if necessary, on the recent sale of arms to the RUC and on the need to ensure that policy and licencing decisions on sales, exports and arms transfers to G.B. for use in N.I. are taken at the highest level in the Department of State.
2. Mr. Biaggi had tabled an amendment to the State, Commerce and Judiciary Appropriations Bill for the Fiscal Year 1980 which sought to prohibit the use of any State Department funds for use in the authorisation or approval of any sale, export or transfer of any defence articles to G.B. for use in N.I. by the police or other law enforcement authorities there.
3. His proposal was supported by Congressmen Rosenthal, Wolff, Mottl, Zefaretti, Gilman, Carney, Peyser, Hanley, Holtzman, Derwinski (who said that unless there were results he would propose an amendment in 1980 requiring the State Department to appoint a special ambassador to work with the Congressional Irish Caucus), Weiss, Fish, Bingham, Slack and Ferraro. Congressman Findley opposed the amendment.
4. In view of the forthcoming visit of the Taoiseach to the United States on 8 November, I think we should not lose sight of the possibility that hearings on this important matter may be held in and around that time.

Raphael V. Stev

30 July 1979