

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

**IRELAND**



<b>Reference Code:</b>	2009/120/1971
<b>Creation Date(s):</b>	19 June 1979
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	1 page
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs
<b>Access Conditions:</b>	Open
<b>Copyright:</b>	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

19 June 1979

Mr. Michael Donnelly  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Justice.

Dear Michael

I would like to let you know that the British Ambassador called at his own request on the Secretary, Mr. O'Rourke, on 18 June. He said that he was calling on instructions in regard to Eugene McNamee and Desmond O'Hare in Monaghan Hospital. Both the RUC and the Gardai he said have the strongest suspicions that they were involved in the incident in Keady on 9th June and in the subsequent shooting of a prison officer. The RUC have warrants for their arrest and consider that all efforts should be taken to bring them to justice. Ministers attach the greatest importance to the case and the Secretary of State has asked that the RUC give the Gardai all assistance possible. The Secretary of State hopes that these combined efforts will lead to a successful prosecution.

The Ambassador said he understood that in RUC-Gardai contacts extradition and/or prosecution under the Extra-territorial Jurisdiction Act are under consideration. Much would depend on the evidence produced by the Gardai and the chain of evidence established.

The Ambassador expressed the hope that we also feel that all possible action should be taken. He reiterated the importance Ministers attach to the question.

The Secretary made the point that the matter was clearly for the Gardai and drew attention to the different procedures for prosecution in this country, compared to those in Britain. Prosecution was not a matter which could be influenced by the Government.

Before leaving the Ambassador mentioned that he had heard that one of the two persons - O'Hare - had been released from hospital but not into custody. He asked for information on this matter and we have been in touch with your division in that regard.

Yours sincerely

*[Handwritten signature]*