

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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*Mr F. Shannon  
George 20/9/82*

NOTE

1. I met today with David Snoxell of the British Foreign Office "Irish Republic" desk in London. He was accompanied by Peter Johnston of the British Embassy who had asked for the meeting.
2. Snoxell said his role was to coordinate the traffic of information from the NIO to British missions abroad, especially to those in the United States. He said that the FCO placed great emphasis on the marxist nature of "PIRA" and of their ambitions for a socialist workers republic. He wondered if Dublin and London could work more closely in defeating support for violence in the U.S.
3. I referred to the record of the past ten years where the Irish Government had been most effective in combatting IRA propaganda when it offered a positive peaceful alternative for the uniting of the Irish people. I said that until the British Government were prepared to support Irish unity their message would not be well received by Irish Americans.
4. I asked Snoxell if Mr Prior was going to the U.S. and he said nothing was definite but November was a possibility. He said that Gowrie was in the U.S. at present.
5. Snoxell said that British opinion had been upset that the Irish Government had condemned the Prior proposal without giving it a chance. I replied that there had been considerable reflection on the proposal and it was found seriously deficient.

Snoxell enquired what Minister Collins would be doing in the U.S. and I said that the Department of Foreign Affairs would be best able to advise but that he would be addressing the U.N. and having some other meetings.

*Ted Smyth*  
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Ted Smyth

*cc W. H. H. H.  
secretary to the Govt.*

15 September 1982