

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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ÁRD-CHONSALACHT NA HÉIREANN

(415) 392-4214



CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND

681 MARKET STREET, SUITE 615

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

5 April, 1984

PO 9/3

His Excellency Tadhg O'Sullivan  
Ambassador of Ireland  
Embassy of Ireland  
2234 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

*Ms Dugdale*  
*Apple on*  
*9/5*  
*and ~~4/29~~* *[Signature]*

Dear Ambassador,

I attach at A a letter I have received from Niall O'Dowd of the Irishman which will be of interest.

*23.4.84*

It was provoked by a conversation I had earlier in March with the Business Manager during which I both acknowledged the better features of the paper and strongly criticised what I considered to be the increasingly "Provo orientation of its editorial policy". As you are aware I am not alone in this view and indeed many others have conveyed similar criticisms to Mr. O'Dowd. In any event I do not propose to respond as I feel it would serve no useful purpose.

As regards his PS, this is a reference to my letter to him and two other representatives of the Irish-American media on 9 March - see attached at B. The Irish Forum panel discussion in question turned out to be a pro-Provo' and anti-Government jamboree, much to the annoyance of many present, and I understand that the only voices of moderation were those of Sean Cronin of the Irish Times, Jack Schreibman of AP and the Guardian representative. In response to a question from the audience specifically referring to sources of information, the three Irish-American representatives in question all failed to refer to their Irish Government sources. I understand that Mr. O'Dowd even referred to the assistance he got from the British Consulate while criticising the lack of cooperation from us! Apparently his amnesia continues. I felt it useful to take them up on this particular issue rather than on their views in order

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to challenge a certain lack of honesty in their approach. I understand that it had the desired effect, at least to some extent, and that our friends are using it as a prod to their collective consciences.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

*Thelma M. Doran.*

Thelma M. Doran  
Consul General

TMD/pobw  
Enclosures

cc: Mr. M. Collins, CGNY  
Mr. G. Corr, Press Officer, Dept. F.A.  
Mr. C. O'Floinn, Anglo-Irish Section ✓