

An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2017/10/19
Creation Dates:	2 December 1987
Extent and medium:	4 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

AMBASAID NA HEIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

112 17 Grosvenor Place SWIX 7HR ps Towner-L pson (Dévid) pson (Dévid) Com rallun Al

hy he, Cal

2 December 1987

Dear Assistant Secretary

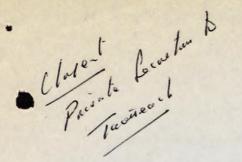
I had a brief conversation with Sir Robert Armstrong at a social function last evening (Tuesday), when I raised with him the question and answer at Prime Minister's questions earlier in the day. I told him we had been surprised and upset at the terms of the answer and at the timing - when the Dail was debating the safeguards question.

Sir Robert in reply mentioned his recent visit to Dublin and his conversations there - including that with the Taoiseach - and said he thought Dublin should not in fact have been at all surprised at the reaction in London. He added that he did not think that the real disappointment which was felt in regard to these developments should carry over to the meeting in Copenhagen. "She is likely to have rows with everybody else - there seems no reason why she should have one with the Taoiseach".

Sir Robert went on to talk about the importance he attached to the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which, he said, had changed everything in Northern Ireland. What he was conveying was his view that, whatever about the present difficulties about extradition, he did not see any question arising regarding the future of the Agreement.

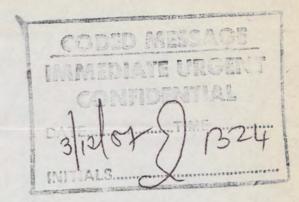
Yours sincerely

Andrew O'Rourke Ambassador



F-A1 LDN

C288 3 DECEMBER 1987 URGENT



TO HQ FF FOR A/S GALLAGHER FRO

FROM LONDON FROM TED SMYTH

11111

I SPOKE TO BERNARD INGHAM THIS MORNING WHO SAID ''WE ARE NOT GOING TO COPENHAGEN LOOKING FOR TROUBLE BUT MRS. THATCHER WILL OF COURSE EXPRESS HER CONCERN AND MISGIVINGS TO THE TAOISEACH''. INGHAM ADDED THAT HE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE LOBBY LAST NIGHT THAT LONDON WAS NOT LOOKING FOR A ROW IN COPENHAGEN. AS FOR BRIEFING IN COPENHAGEN HE THOUGHT HE WOULD SAY THAT THE PM SPOKE FRANKLY AS SHE ALWAYS DOES.

HE DOES NOT EXPECT ANY FOLLOW UP IN TODAY'S PM QUESTION TIME ON EXTRADITION BUT I WILL BE THERE IN ANY CASE.

END

AMBASÁID NA hÉIREANN, LONDAIN



2 49 2

PS Tusiner l prov Consulton MI Fork 17, GROSVENOR PLACE, SW1X 7HR Telephone: 01-235 2171 TELEX: 916104

3 December 1987

Dear Assistant Secretary

BACKGROUND TO PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME REMARKS ON EXTRADITION

There are conflicting reports in London about whether Mrs Thatcher's remarks were orchestrated or not. The NIO Press Officer, Leigh Jackson, was at great pains to assert that Michael Mates had not been put up to asking a question. She said that the Political and Parliamentary Secretaries in Downing Street were adament about this.

However, Mike Burns of RTE told me confidentially that he had been alerted by a British official <u>before</u> Question Time to expect a question on NI.

Finally, whatever about the British Embassy's efforts at damage limitation, the outpouring of tabloid editorial criticism in yesterday's media does not happen without an official steer.

The realisation yesterday and today that the criticism was counterproductive may have the useful result of making the press briefing of the en marge Copenhagen meeting more constructive.

Yours sincerely

Ted finght

Ted Smyth Press and Information Officer

Mr Dermot A Gallagher Assistant Secretary Anglo-Irish Division Department of Foreign Affairs Dublin 2 E-A DUBLIN F-A1 LDN

C286

NA

1ST DECEMBER 1987

IMMEDIATE -----

TO HQ FOR ASSISTANT SEC GALLAGHER

11111

FURTHER TO MY PREVIOUS, IN PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME TODAY (1 DECEMBER) MICHAEL MATES MP ASKED WHETHER THE IRISH ESTRADITION SAFE-GUARDS WERE IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION, WHETHER THEY VIOLATED THE 1965 ACT WITH PRIMA FACIA RULES TO MAKE BRITAIN LEAST FAVOURED AND WHAT POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION WAS THERE?

m m

FROM

FROM

8 · 1V.

LONDON

TED SMYTH

75 250

705 the Nally

Ma Watthews

seller Al

CODED

网络

DAT

INIT

1C

Moll

MRS THATCHER SAID THAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THE DECISION TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON TERRORISM BUT . WE REGRET THAT NOTWITHSTANDING OUR REPRESENTATIONS, THEY ARE UNFORTUNATELY TAKING FURTHER MEASURES. IT COULD MAKE EXTRADITION MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE IT IS PROPOSED TO GIVE A ROLE TO THE IRISH ATTORNEY-GENERAL WHEREBY HE MUST SATISFY HIMSELF AS TO THE INTENTION TO PROSECUTE A FUGITIVE AND AS TO THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE EVIDENCE. WE ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMPATIBILITY OF THIS WITH THE CONTINUANCE OF THE VIABLE EXTRADITION ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS SO THAT THERE IS NO HIDING PLACE FOR TERRORISTS. WHAT THE REPUBLIC IS DOING IN TAKING THESE STEPS IS MAKING US THE LEAST FAVOURED NATION IN THIS MATTER''.

CECIL WALKER, UNIONIST MP, SAID THERE WAS GREAT PUBLIC CONCERN IN NORTHERN IRELAND ABOUT THE LEGALISATION AND ASKED IF SHE

KNEW THAT MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN GOVERNMENT WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THE EXTRADITION LEGALISATION WHICH IS UNWORKABLE AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL?

'THERE IS A RISK THAT EXTRADITION COULD BECOME MRS THATCHER: MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THESE NEW MEASURES. IT WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARDS FROM EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH NO APPLICATION IS MADE BEFORE JUDICIAL AUTHORITY WITHOUT INTENTION TO PROSECUTE. THE ADDITIONAL ROLE FOR THE IRISH ATTORNEY-GENERAL WOULD MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO SECURE EXTRADITION THAN IN THE RECENT PAST. WE ARE SURPRISED THAT THE NEED IS PERCEIVED FOR ANY FURTHER STEPS''.

love been planted.

THE PRIME MINISTER ACCORDING TO THOSE PRESENT APPEARED TO BE goome tog sufflowertary more READING FROM A PREPARED NOTE.

END END END AI/TSCH/2017/10/19