



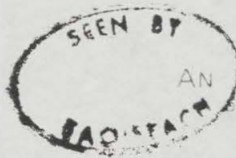
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AN ROINN GNÓTHAI EACHTRACHA
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ATHA CLIATH 2

Secret

21 May, 1992

Mr. Dermot Nally
Secretary to the Government

1. M. Kavanagh (on leave) h. Langan
2. M. McCallery, Taoiseach To see please
25/5 22/5

Dear Dermot

Allegations of continuing support by Libya
for the IRA

Following a mention by me in a recent discussion of the intention of the British Ambassador to come to see me about Libya, you asked me to let you know of any information which he might supply.

I am now enclosing herewith a copy of my note of a discussion with the British Ambassador on 19 May 1992 when he called to see me on a number of issues. As you will see from this note he was instructed to pass on certain information to me indicating that Libyan support for the IRA still continues. This was by way of a response to my having drawn his attention in an earlier conversation some months ago to the assurances given by the Libyan Foreign Minister to the previous Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Collins that Libyan support for the IRA had ceased. The Ambassador had said to me at that time that the British authorities simply do not believe such assurances. The information which he now conveyed was intended to give reasons for their doubts on this score.

I have to say, without in any way trying to judge the sincerity or otherwise of the Libyan position, that the particular information supplied to me by the Ambassador seemed circumstantial at best and in some aspects rather out of date. The Ambassador himself acknowledged at the end of the discussion that his information was not very substantial or conclusive.

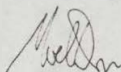
In this connection it may be of interest to refer also to the attached document of the UN Security Council (S/23918 of 14 May 1992). As you will see it consists of a letter from the Secretary of the Peoples Committee of the Peoples Bureau for

Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation which I take to be the title of the Libyan Foreign Ministry. This letter sets out in paragraph 1 a series of steps which Libya is taking to sever its connection with international terrorism and end its support for any groups engaged in it. The letter goes on, inter alia, to set out the following as one of the measures which Libya is adopting:-

"Libya will comply promptly and effectively with the United Kingdom's request for information concerning Libya's links with the Irish Republican Army, including details of financial assistance, provision of weapons, training of personnel and names of contact points. In this connection, Libya proposes that a meeting be held between a Libyan representative and a United Kingdom representative, in the presence of the Secretary-General, at a United Nations headquarters location".

I might add that we are aware that, apart from other sources of information which they may draw on, the British have been asking the Egyptians for information in regard to Libyan dealings with the IRA and, following a recent inquiry to me from our Ambassador in Cairo Eamon O Tuathail, I have written to Joe Brosnan to ask if he feels that we should also make inquiries in Cairo on this question. Having said that I would doubt whether we would be likely to receive any information through such an indirect channel which could be of use to the Gardai here in their effort to trace the remaining Libyan weapons.

Yours sincerely



Noel Dorr
Secretary

c.c. Mr. J. Brosnan Secretary D/Justice

Confidential

Support by Libya for the IRA - discussion with British
Ambassador 19 May 1992

In the course of a call on me on other matters the British Ambassador said that he had been instructed also to mention the question of continuing Libyan support for the Provisional IRA. He recalled that he had mentioned this previously in the course of a call some months ago about the actions being taken in relation to the Lockerbie bombing. I had noted then that in the course of a meeting with the previous Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Collins in Brussels last Autumn, the Libyan Foreign Minister had given an undertaking that Libyan support for the IRA had ceased. He had responded that the British authorities simply do not believe these assurances. The Ambassador said he now had instructions in response to this earlier conversation to pass on some information to us to support what he had said.

The Ambassador, referring to a paper, which he did not leave with me, then said that British information is that contacts between the PIRA and Libya continue. PIRA would like to get surface to air missiles. Four people had been charged in Florida last year with aiding them to do so. It is clear that the PIRA expect assistance from Ghadaffi and there are signs that he may be sending help to them. There have been contacts between a known Libyan intelligence officer and the PIRA in a number of European cities.

The Ambassador said that the British authorities also have information to suggest that Sinn Fein delegations to other countries are used at times as a cover for onward travel to Libya.

There are also indications that Libyan training for the IRA is continuing. One of those arrested in Florida in 1990 had demonstrated a considerable knowledge of missiles and claimed that he had been trained by the Libyans. There were indications that Libyan training for PIRA continued as late as 1991 and Libya keeps 12 places permanently available for PIRA in a training facility some distance from Tripoli.

Furthermore some PIRA members arrested on the Continent in 1989 were found to be in possession of \$100 bills. One of these had a stamp of a Libyan Bureau de Change.

I commented that without in any way taking the Libyan side, it seemed to me that the information he had given stretched back over a number of years and extended only until 1991 at the latest. It was just possible to imagine that though these things had happened, the Libyan Foreign Minister in his

discussion with the previous Minister for Foreign Affairs in Brussels was also correct in saying that Libyan support for the IRA has now ceased. I also noted that Minister of State Douglas Hogg in a briefing of EC Ambassadors in Cairo in December had mentioned that some information was given by the Egyptians on these issues.

The Ambassador replied that information he had given me did not come from the Egyptians. The UK had its own sources of information. Having said that he acknowledged that the information he had given me was not very substantial or conclusive. He had nevertheless been asked to convey it to us as a follow-up to our earlier conversation. The general message was that contacts between the Libyans and the PIRA are continuing despite public denials.



N. Dorr
Secretary
20 May 1992

c.c. Mr. Nally
Mr. Brosnan (D/Justice)
A/Sec O'hUiginn
A/Sec Barrington