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IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

17, GROSVENOR PLACE,  
SW1X 7HR

Telephone: 071-235 2171

TELEX: 916104

Fax: 071-245 6961

4 July, 1994.

Mr. Seán O hUiginn,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Anglo-Irish Division,  
Department of Foreign Affairs,  
St. Stephen's Green,  
DUBLIN 2.

PSS  
Counsellors At  
Joint Sec  
San  
5/7

Dear Seán,

Ms. Stella Rimington, Director General of MI5

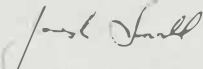
As a concession to "glasnost", the British have been attempting recently to lift the veil of secrecy that traditionally surrounded all aspects of the intelligence services. In that connection the current head of these operations, Ms. Stella Rimington, has been engaging in some high-profile media work, including the delivery of the prestigious Dimbleby lecture a few weeks ago. Further evidence of this "outing" was to be found today at the American Ambassador's Independence Day Reception where Ms. Rimington was one of the guests.

In the course of a brief discussion with Ms. Rimington I had an opportunity of taking her to task over language when delivering the Dimbleby Lecture. She had resorted a number of times to the expression "Irish terrorism" which, I told her, was inaccurate and injurious to our interests. She said she was sorry if this was so and asked what alternative formulation would be acceptable: would "terrorism arising in the island" be satisfactory, she asked? I said this was equally objectionable to us as it conveyed a totally wrong impression that the whole island was involved. It would have been more correct to talk about terrorism in Northern Ireland or terrorism arising from the Northern Ireland conflict. I told her I was glad of the opportunity to say this directly to her, because any broad-brush expression like Irish terrorism was not only inaccurate but was also damaging to our economic interests, especially in the fields of tourism and investment.

Ms. Rimington regretted any difficulties caused for us and made no effort to defend the language she had used in the Dimbleby Lecture. She asked me to let her know if there was anything else in the lecture that was a source of concern to

us. I told her I would appreciate receiving the full text of the lecture which she readily agreed to supply. I am enclosing a copy\* for your information and you will see from the handwritten note at the top of the first page that it purports to be the final draft supplied by the Home Office, although it does not include a last minute reference to the RAF helicopter crash at the Mull of Kintyre. This handwritten note is obviously intended to exculpate Ms. Rimington and place the blame on the Home Office for the "Irish terrorism" remarks.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joseph Small  
Ambassador

\* As the copy has only reached me in time to copy and forward with this, I have not yet examined it in detail. If you have any comments on the lecture please let me know

