

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2022/45/295
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN
TELEPHONE: (202) 462-3939
FAX: (202) 232-5993

EMBASSY OF IRELAND
2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

N1/9/1

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 29 July, 1999 PAGES: 2

To: A-I Division For: John Biggar

From: Adrian O'Neill

c/c: Press Section; GIS; CGNY; Consular; London (Mr Gaffey)

Re:Bail hearing in Florida

I spoke this afternoon to Joe Carroll in Florida about today's bail hearing for the 3 arrested in Fort Lauderdale. Joe was present for the hearing and told me the following:

- Bail was refused by Judge Seltzer on the grounds that the 3 were a danger to the community and that there was a risk of flight. (Apparently all 3 had tickets for early flights to Ireland.)

- The US attorney made a "sensational" revelation when he told the court that Claxton (who apparently was doing the actual mailing) had told the FBI that he was acting with the authority of the IRA, that he was on a weapons procurement mission, that the sense was that the peace process had failed and that there was a need to acquire arms to resume the campaign against the British. Claxton's apparent admission was not taped but the FBI officer does have notes of the conversation.

- Claxton's lawyer told the court that, if what the US attorney said was true, his client should not be granted bail. However, he added that his client told him that the US attorney's account was a stretch. (Joe Carroll noted that there was no outright denial.)

- Siobhan Browne's attorney told the court that she was aware that Claxton was affiliated to the IRA but that there was no evidence to support his client being politically involved.

- The 3 will be formally arraigned next Thursday but this is expected to be a very brief hearing where they will make their pleas and be remanded in custody.

©DFA/2022/45/295

- Joe spoke to one of the US attorneys after the hearing. He said that they were aware of the distinctions between the mainstream IRA and the various splinter groups. They believed that the 3 were affiliated to the former.

- Joe told me that he had operated under the assumption that the 3 were not affiliated to the IRA and expressed some surprise at this turn of events.

- There were apparently a number of British journalists in attendance and he expects that this story will play big tomorrow.

END

©DFA/2022/45/295