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**Second Secretary**

**Date : 02.06.00**

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**From :** **Ambassador Barrington**

**Subject :** **Hammersmith Bomb**

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2 June 2000

Mr. Dáithí O'Ceallaigh
Second Secretary
Anglo-Irish Division
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin 2

Dear Dáithí,

**Hammersmith Bomb**

Michael Gaffey has reported on the media reaction to yesterday's attempted bombing of Hammersmith bridge. I spoke yesterday evening to David Omand, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office, and David Manning, Deputy Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office with responsibility for security and defence. Both said that they had no forensic evidence as yet, but their working assumption is that the bomb was planted by the Real IRA. Omand said that they had no intelligence on the specific activities of the organisation prior to the attempt, but they had nonetheless been expecting something of this kind. He wondered if the choice of Hammersmith was to show continuity with the earlier attempt by the Provisional IRA against the same bridge in 1996. I asked if the British were worried that the Hammersmith bomb prefigured a more determined effort by the Real IRA in Great Britain. Omand said that they had no intelligence to suggest this. Both seemed to feel that a major operation was unlikely but did not rule out further attempts of the kind and on the scale we have seen in Hammersmith.

Yours sincerely,

Ted Barrington

Edward Barrington
Ambassador

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