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SOLICITOR

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OUR REF. 32975/VH/ST.

YOUR REF. _____

81 Victoria Street

BELFAST, BT1 4PQ

28th April, 1969.

Minister of Home Affairs,
The Rt. Hon. R. W. Porter, Q.C.,
Stormont,
BELFAST, 4.

Ministry of Home Affairs
MINISTER'S OFFICE
Rec'd. ...30...4...69.....
Ackd. ...29...4...69.....

Dear Minister,

You will have received notice through the Chief Crown Solicitor's Office, that I am acting in connection with Criminal Injury Claims brought in respect of an incident which took place at 69 William Street, Londonderry on Saturday, 19th April, 1969.

I enclose herewith copy of a letter which I have sent to the County Inspector, Londonderry and Chief Crown Solicitor, contents of which are self-explanatory.

My further purpose in writing to you is to draw the following situation to your attention:-

At Stormont last week Mr. John Hume, M.P., pointed out to the Prime Minister the serious nature of the assault on Mr. Samuel Devenny and the risk to his health following a heart attack which he sustained on Wednesday 23rd April, 1969. I understand that as a result of that conversation, Consultant Physician, Dr. F. Pantridge was dispatched to Altnagelvin Hospital to supervise the treatment of Mr. Devenny.

On Saturday, 26th April, Mr. Devenny was removed to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, where he now remains under the care of Dr. Pantridge.

I am sure that the action of the Prime Minister or any other person who arranged for the involving of Dr. Pantridge was motivated entirely by the concern for the health of Mr. Devenny, I would however, like to make the point that at this juncture that there is a Criminal Injuries Claim pending against the Ministry, under the name of Samuel Devenny and I must therefore advise you that any advise or treatment, any notes or records or any other documents whatsoever required by Dr. Pantridge in the course of his examinations and treatment shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed or raised in any way by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Writing such a letter as this is a rather unusual step but I am sure that you will appreciate the circumstances of this case are themselves most unusual.

Yours faithfully,

Vivian Hanna.