

Mr Long Roll - Plea
Seen by P.O.S.
K. G. Lachner 3/3
Reference *114*

~~30A~~
18A

Note for P.U.S.

Return of Flag which flew over the General Post Office in Dublin during the Easter Rising in 1916

1. The Irish Ambassador called on the P.U.S. in January to say the Taoiseach, supported by the President, had asked if the flag could be returned to the Republic.
2. The P.U.S. promised to make enquiries, and after we had ascertained that the flag was with the Imperial War Museum we contacted the Director there with a recommendation that we would see considerable political advantage in demonstrating the close and most friendly relations developing with the Irish Republic by presenting the flag to them.
3. The Board of Trustees of the Imperial War Museum having cleared it with the Secretary of State for Education and Science (who has a responsibility for the Museum) decided to accede to the request.
4. The Trustees asked the Commonwealth Relations Office to perform the actual handing over. They also asked that we should convey to the Irish a request that when the flag is put on display it should be accompanied by a notice stating that it had been presented by the Trustees. This point has been made, in writing, to the Irish Ambassador.
5. With the flag the Imperial War Museum have sent us a brass plaque which records (text attached) particulars of the dates the flag was flown over the General Post Office and of its capture. The Imperial War Museum have no other information about the flag except that it has been in their possession since shortly after its capture (though they have no record of the actual date or circumstances in which they received it) and that they have not had it on display at least since the beginning of the Second World War.
6. It is assumed that the P.U.S. will not wish to make a formal statement when he presents the flag, but he may wish to make the point that it is being handed over as a gesture of good will to the Government and people of the Irish Republic from the British Government.
7. When handing over the plaque the P.U.S. may wish to say that it is evidence of the flag's identity and he may also wish to make some light-hearted allusion to its final invocation.
8. The P.U.S. might remind the Ambassador of the desire of the Board of Trustees of the Imperial War Museum that when the flag is displayed it is accompanied by a notice to the effect that it is a gift from them.

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9. The P.U.S. may wish to give the Ambassador the attached copy of the Press Announcement which has been agreed with the Ambassador and will be issued immediately after the presentation (notwithstanding that the news has already leaked).

10. One Central Office Information photographer will be present and it is suggested that the P.U.S. may wish to have the flag unfolded for photographs.

30 March, 1966.