

PA 2/2/225/1

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Mr Hunt Park
 Mr Allison 14/8
 JAW/s
 (26)

P.U.S.

I spoke accordingly to the
 Irish Ch. d. Affairs. We
 should send Sir A. Gilchrist an
 account of the interview. wncf
 p.u. 14/8

INTERVIEW WITH THE IRISH CHARGE ABOUT THE THREAT
 TO THE LIFE OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR

1. The Threat

Is Dr. Brennan aware of the threat to the life of our Ambassador in Dublin by a splinter group of the I.R.A.? Since the Ambassador returned from a visit to Germany on 20 June, he has been provided with a very thorough security guard for 24 hours a day by the Irish authorities. Mr. McCann (Secretary for the Irish Department of External Affairs) has explained to the Ambassador that there is a threat to his life and has asked him to cooperate in the security arrangements. Sir Andrew was advised that the threat was principally at public functions which he was known to be attending. It is directed only at the Ambassador. Mr. McCann has made it clear that he sees no danger to distinguished visitors or other members of the Embassy staff. Mr. McCann has not been able to say how long the threat is likely to continue. As Dr. Brennan will appreciate, this is of course a very worrying situation for Sir Andrew and his family: by bad luck they had rather harrowing experiences in their two previous Embassies - Indonesia and Iceland.

2. Appreciation of Irish Precautions

We are, of course, most grateful for the very thorough precautions which the Irish authorities have instituted.

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And I have invited you to call not in any spirit of remonstrance or protest but because I thought it right to let you and your Government know that we take a very serious view indeed of the threat to Sir Andrew Gilchrist's life.

3. Removal of the Threat

Can the threat be removed? I understand that the Irish Security authorities have a very good record in safely protecting people. However, a threat of this kind is not only a great strain for the individuals concerned and for the Security authorities but it means that a potentially grave hazard to good Anglo-Irish relations remains in existence. We hope, therefore, that everything possible is being done to deal with the source of the threat so that before long it will be possible to dispense with the comprehensive protection which the Irish authorities are currently providing for Sir Andrew.

4. Assurance of Continued Cooperation

In the meantime, Sir Andrew is cooperating closely with the Irish authorities in the arrangements which they have made for his security and I have advised him as far as possible to avoid public appearances for the time being. I would be very glad to consult with you on any further steps which can be taken about the elimination of this very serious problem.

RCH
(R.C.C. Hunt)
14 August, 1968.

copy to: Mr C. Crowe
Mr. Le Tocq
Mr. Allinson