



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Secretary to the Government

In ledger  
despatch No 16 21

In case you have not seen  
To see Mr. [unclear] 21.12.87



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Pl. fax to [unclear]  
Anglo-Irish DFA  
cc [unclear] DFA

was reported recently  
in the press

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 December 1987

21/12

Mr. McCarthy  
21.12.87  
see [unclear]  
22/12/87

Dear Mr. McNamara

Thank you for your letter of 2 December.

In my references in the House to the new legislation on extradition introduced by the Irish Government, I was primarily concerned with its practical effect. The fact is that uniquely in respect of extradition to the UK will the Irish Attorney General be required to reach a view on the sufficiency of the evidence on which the request is founded, and that even before the process can be begun. And I am concerned that the addition of new procedures to the existing mechanism will significantly reduce the advantages we may draw from the unique backing of warrants arrangements which have existed since 1965. We may face serious procedural difficulties if our fears about the involvement of the Irish courts prove well-founded.

I share your assessment of the effort that the present Irish government is making to combat the terrorism that threatens both the Republic and Northern Ireland. It goes without saying that I also understand the importance of maximising the confidence of both communities in Northern Ireland in the administration of justice (though we must always be sure that measures designed to increase confidence do in fact have the desired effect) and of ensuring the most effective possible means of achieving fair employment, where you are aware of our current proposals. In all these areas, the Anglo-Irish Agreement offers us a framework in which to

move forward with the co-operation and support of the Irish Government. The Agreement does not mean that we and the Irish Government will always see eye to eye - as the recent events in respect of extradition have shown. But that in no way detracts from the importance that I continue to attach to it.

*Yours sincerely*

*Raymond Galvin*

Kevin McNamara, Esq., M.P.