



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Clarent  
Private Secretariat  
Taoiseach

F-A1 LDN

C288  
3 DECEMBER 1987  
URGENT  
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TO HQ FROM LONDON  
FOR A/S GALLAGHER FROM TED SMYTH

/////

I SPOKE TO BERNARD INGHAM THIS MORNING WHO SAID "WE ARE NOT GOING TO COPENHAGEN LOOKING FOR TROUBLE BUT MRS. THATCHER WILL OF COURSE EXPRESS HER CONCERN AND MISGIVINGS TO THE TAOISEACH". INGHAM ADDED THAT HE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE LOBBY LAST NIGHT THAT LONDON WAS NOT LOOKING FOR A ROW IN COPENHAGEN. AS FOR BRIEFING IN COPENHAGEN HE THOUGHT HE WOULD SAY THAT THE PM SPOKE FRANKLY AS SHE ALWAYS DOES.

HE DOES NOT EXPECT ANY FOLLOW UP IN TODAY'S PM QUESTION TIME ON EXTRADITION BUT I WILL BE THERE IN ANY CASE.

END  
SENT

CODED MESSAGE	
IMMEDIATE URGENT	
CONFIDENTIAL	
DATE.....	TIME.....
3/12/87 1324	
INITIALS.....	
J	



AMBASÁID NA hÉIREANN, LONDAIN



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*PS Tasson  
PC 04  
Cathal A/  
T304*

3 December 1987

Dear Assistant Secretary

BACKGROUND TO PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME REMARKS ON EXTRADITION

There are conflicting reports in London about whether Mrs Thatcher's remarks were orchestrated or not. The NIO Press Officer, Leigh Jackson, was at great pains to assert that Michael Mates had not been put up to asking a question. She said that the Political and Parliamentary Secretaries in Downing Street were adamant about this.

However, Mike Burns of RTE told me confidentially that he had been alerted by a British official before Question Time to expect a question on NI.

Finally, whatever about the British Embassy's efforts at damage limitation, the outpouring of tabloid editorial criticism in yesterday's media does not happen without an official steer.

The realisation yesterday and today that the criticism was counter-productive may have the useful result of making the press briefing of the en marge Copenhagen meeting more constructive.

Yours sincerely

Ted Smyth  
Press and Information Officer

Mr Dermot A Gallagher  
Assistant Secretary  
Anglo-Irish Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin 2



NR

E-A DUBLIN  
F-A1 LDN

C286

1ST DECEMBER 1987

IMMEDIATE  
=====

TO HQ  
FOR ASSISTANT SEC GALLAGHER

FROM LONDON  
FROM TED SMYTH

/////

FURTHER TO MY PREVIOUS, IN PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME TODAY (1 DECEMBER) MICHAEL MATES MP ASKED WHETHER THE IRISH EXTRADITION SAFE-GUARDS WERE IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION, WHETHER THEY VIOLATED THE 1965 ACT WITH PRIMA FACIA RULES TO MAKE BRITAIN LEAST FAVOURED AND WHAT POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION WAS THERE?

MRS THATCHER SAID THAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THE DECISION TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON TERRORISM BUT "WE REGRET THAT NOTWITHSTANDING OUR REPRESENTATIONS, THEY ARE UNFORTUNATELY TAKING FURTHER MEASURES. IT COULD MAKE EXTRADITION MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE IT IS PROPOSED TO GIVE A ROLE TO THE IRISH ATTORNEY-GENERAL WHEREBY HE MUST SATISFY HIMSELF AS TO THE INTENTION TO PROSECUTE A FUGITIVE AND AS TO THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE EVIDENCE. WE ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMPATIBILITY OF THIS WITH THE CONTINUANCE OF THE VIABLE EXTRADITION ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS SO THAT THERE IS NO HIDING PLACE FOR TERRORISTS. WHAT THE REPUBLIC IS DOING IN TAKING THESE STEPS IS MAKING US THE LEAST FAVOURED NATION IN THIS MATTER".

CECIL WALKER, UNIONIST MP, SAID THERE WAS GREAT PUBLIC CONCERN IN NORTHERN IRELAND ABOUT THE LEGALISATION AND ASKED IF SHE

KNEW THAT MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN GOVERNMENT WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THE EXTRADITION LEGALISATION WHICH IS UNWORKABLE AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL?

MRS THATCHER: "THERE IS A RISK THAT EXTRADITION COULD BECOME MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THESE NEW MEASURES. IT WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARDS FROM EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH NO APPLICATION IS MADE BEFORE JUDICIAL AUTHORITY WITHOUT INTENTION TO PROSECUTE. THE ADDITIONAL ROLE FOR THE IRISH ATTORNEY-GENERAL WOULD MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO SECURE EXTRADITION THAN IN THE RECENT PAST. WE ARE SURPRISED THAT THE NEED IS PERCEIVED FOR ANY FURTHER STEPS".

THE PRIME MINISTER ACCORDING TO THOSE PRESENT APPEARED TO BE READING FROM A PREPARED NOTE.

END END END

*Do some ~~more~~ supplementary notes have been planted.*

*cc PSTU  
PSMIV  
708  
Mr Walker  
Mr Matthews  
Counselor 27*

**CODED MESSAGE**  
**IMMEDIATE URGENT**  
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
DATE: 12/1/87 TIME: 1430  
INITIALS: [Signature]

*1. Mr. Nally, new  
(4) "revised" copy  
intended -*

*Mr. McGearty  
8.12.87  
7/12*