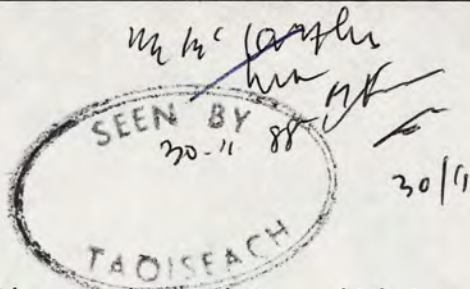




# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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*Taraiah*  
*To see plea*  
*29/11*

*(10/10)*

Telephone discussion with British Ambassador - 28 November 1988

1. The British Ambassador, Nicholas Fenn telephoned me this evening about 6.15 pm. Among other issues he spoke at some length about the case of Fr. Patrick Ryan whose extradition has been requested.

2. He mentioned that the Tanaiste and Tom King had spoken on the phone this morning and said that the two AGs had also spoken. He simply wanted to add two points

- he wanted to stress the great importance which the British Government attach to the case.

- he also wanted to convey their hope and expectation that the issue will be addressed expeditiously in accordance with the assurances given at the time the legislation was passed.

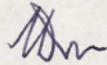
He said he wanted to tell me to avoid any misunderstanding, that the original of the letter requesting extradition had been delivered by hand about half an hour previously by the Embassy to Justin Dillon in our Anglo-Irish Division. Someone had flown over specially from London with it. Copies had been faxed earlier over the weekend to the AG's office. I said that he could be assured that any letter delivered here would be passed on without delay.

Just before we spoke, word had been coming in on news bulletins that Fr. Ryan had left the Blackrock Clinic and, as he put it, "the bird had flown". I said that I thought that was not a correct description. The situation is that the British Government have requested the extradition of someone from Ireland; and the warrants are now being examined in accordance with our law by our Attorney General to see whether or not they should be executed in the State. Granted this, it is not formally or legally relevant whether the person concerned is at the moment in the Blackrock Clinic or somewhere else - there is no reason, pending decision on the warrants in accordance with the law, for him to be there rather than elsewhere.

Ambassador Fenn acknowledged this. He said however that there is a procedure available to us under the law whereby Fr. Ryan could have been held provisionally pending a decision. That had not been resorted to. Furthermore they noted newspaper reports suggesting that a decision on the warrants would take a considerable time. They hoped this would not be so.

I said that I would note and convey what he had said. We agreed

that the matter is now in the hands of our Attorney General in accordance with our law and that we could not take the matter any further between us.



N. Dorr  
Secretary  
DFA

28 November 1988

cc PST, AG, Mr. Nally, Mr Brosnan, Mr.Gallagher, Mr. Barrington