



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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AMBASÁID NA hÉIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

MOS

Taoiseach  
To see  
6/11

*[Handwritten signature]*

17 Grosvenor Place,  
London SW1X 7HR.

13/11

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13.1.88

21 December, 1988.

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TAOISEACH

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PS4  
M. Nally; P. L.  
(3) Caroline R.  
OK.

Mr. Dermot Gallagher,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Department of Foreign Affairs,  
Dublin.

Dear Assistant Secretary,

Lunch with Lord Gowrie

Gowrie warned strongly about the possibility of Sir Patrick Mayhew becoming Northern Ireland Secretary next September. He cannot believe that Mayhew is not scheming for it. Mayhew, he said, always resented leaving a lucrative law practise just to become a Law Officer (this is a widely held view). He has a major personal interest in the Northern Ireland job but sees it also as the means of getting a major office of state afterward. Gowrie thinks that Mayhew's approach, if he got it, would be to base his policy on the fundamental instincts of the Party : move as far toward integration as possible, "whack the terrorists left, right and centre" and get tough on Dublin in the Agreement framework. He heard, he said, that Mayhew has offered the view that no Northern Ireland Secretary has hitherto had a policy that corresponded to reality and to the mood in Britain. If he were in our position, he said, he would let it be known in no uncertain way that Mayhew would not be an acceptable appointment as co-Chairman of the Conference.

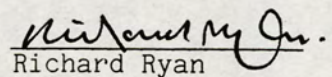
On the recent extradition row, he said he has no doubt that there is a feeling of chagrin at high level in London. As things cooled down a bit, he said, Mrs. Thatcher must have seen that the Taoiseach had benefited hugely (from her behaviour) in the Irish polls and, in round terms, had not lost the battle - Gowrie strongly admired his restraint in the face of the "hysteria" coming from London, and he thought that this was a large part of it.

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I briefed Gowrie on all major issues. He finds these briefings useful, he said, as he sees her and other Ministers quite regularly.

Yours sincerely,

  
Richard Ryan  
Minister-Counsellor