

NATIONAL ARCHIVES**IRELAND**

Reference Code: 2001/43/1382

Title: Transcript of an interview by Mr. Joe Burns, Unionist M.P., with South African television regarding the troubles in Northern Ireland.

Creation Date(s): September, 1969

Level of description: Item

Extent and medium: 3 pages

Creator(s): Department of Foreign Affairs

Access Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Consulate of Ireland

496

TELEPHONE 36-6536



PROVINCIAL BUILDING
98 MARKET STREET
JOHANNESBURG
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

8th September 1969

B. Gallagher, Esq.,
DUBLIN

Dear Mr. Gallagher,

Enclosure from the S.A.B.C.

On Friday, 5th September, we received numerous complaints from Irish citizens with regard to a news item which was broadcast on the 4th September 1969 in the evening programme 'News at Nine'.

We requested the South African Broadcasting Corporation to let us have the full details of the broadcast made by Mr. J. Burns.

The enclosure was received from the S.A.B.C. this morning.

We await, with interest, your comments.

Mr. O'Riordan - while
This arrived while
I was on leave + I have
only now discovered it
B.G.
21/10/69



SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

(ESTABLISHED UNDER ACT 22 OF 1936)

HEAD OFFICE

YOUR REF.

OUR REF. CRER/MV

BROADCAST HOUSE,
 COMMISSIONER ST.,
 JOHANNESBURG.
 P.O. BOX 8606.
 TELEGRAMS & CABLES:
 " BROADCAST ",
 JOHANNESBURG.
 TELEX: J7366-68
 TELEPHONES 23-1151

COPY OF AN ITEM BROADCAST ON THE 4TH SEPTEMBER, '69.

"THE NEWS AT NINE"

The Unionist Member of Parliament for Londonderry in Northern Ireland, Mr. Joe Burns, says Communists and Anarchists are responsible for the Unrest in Northern Ireland. In an interview in Durban this evening, Mr. Burns said that Communists were supporting the I.R.A. in their efforts to overthrow the Government. He added that this was being done with the knowledge of the Prime Minister of Southern Ireland and with the use of American weapons: Mr. Burns continued:

"First of all you had the I.R.A., you had the Nucleus, you had these people who have been trying to do away with the constitution and unite Ireland for years, but this was the foundation, and then the communists were able to come in and take over (perhaps 'take over' is the wrong word, but at the same time they have been very very active) and we have at the present time a number of people from France and Germany, who are now in jail in Northern Ireland, and these people who are in the midst of the troubles in Berlin, Paris and Chicago, and other parts of the World, and they are worldwide anarchists, people that are well known.

Now these people are not the least bit interested in civil rights or the political set up in Northern Ireland, and I think it is true to say that the I.R.A., while they are the basic force and nucleus of the whole thing, are getting a tremendous amount of assistance, and I believe - although I could not prove this - that there is a very considerable amount of money being given to these people by the communist party and I am also satisfied beyond doubt that a tremendous amount

2/.....

- 2 -

of money has been pouring in to them from America, even in the way of Guns, Ammunition and this type of thing, because these are being shipped, there's no two ways about it.

Prime Minister Jack Lynch of Southern Ireland, when the difficulties in the Bogside arose, saw fit to move his troops towards the border, set up military field ambulances, and he knew very well that there was a movement of I.R.A. across the border.

That was one of the things he was aware of, he didn't do anything about it, notwithstanding the fact that we have been on friendly terms insofar as we've been continuing to trade with one another, and the economic situation with goods going across the border, notwithstanding that, he did everything to hurt Northern Ireland at that particular time."