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Minister,

     The British Ambassador came to see me urgently at
12.40 today. He said that the Foreign Office is worried
lest the Answers to today's Dáil Questions might give rise
to Paisley trouble.

     The Ambassador asked me to say that it would be helpful
in avoiding Paisley trouble if, in answer to the Questions
or Supplementaries thereon, nothing would be said which
would imply that Captain Kelly's work related to subversive
activities, but rather that it was just an intelligence
operation in relation to a critical situation in the past.
Nothing should be said which might give an implication that
they are continuing. The Ambassador expressed the hope
that if there should be a Supplementary Question as to
whether this type of activity is continuing, that both the
facts and the Answer would be no.

     Finally, the Ambassador made the general comment that
in this particular case he did not think that it would be
adequate to give the usual reply that one does not discuss
such activities.

[signature]

26th May, 1970

<u>QUESTION NOS. 10 to 15</u>

Chun an Aire Gnothaí Eachtracha: To the Minister for External Affairs

To ask the Minister for External Affairs whether he has been in contact
with the Irish Ambassador in London following the Ambassador's meeting
with British Foreign Office officials; and if he will make a statement
on the matter.

                              - Michael O'Leary.

To ask the Minister for External Affairs if the Irish Ambassador has
been recently in touch with the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office;
if he will inform the House of the matters discussed; and if he will
make a statement on the matter.

                              - Gerry L'Estrange.

To ask the Minister for External Affairs if he will make a statement
concerning the meeting between the Irish Ambassador and the British
Permanent Secretary in London on 20th May, 1970 on the presence of Irish
Army Intelligence officers in Northern Ireland.

                              - Barry Desmond.

To ask the Minister for External Affairs if he will make a full statement
on the discussions between the Irish Ambassador to Britain and a
representative of the British Government regarding the presence of Irish
Army intelligence officers in the North; at whose request the meeting
was called; and whether the British Government made any specific requests
to the Irish Government in relation to Irish Army intelligence officers
being in the Six Counties.

                              - Brendan Corish.

To ask the Minister for External Affairs if any protest has been made by
the Stormont or British Governments in relation to the Taoiseach's state-
ment in Dáil Éireann on 14th May, 1970 on the presence of Irish Army
personnel in the North; and, if so, the nature of the protest and the
reply thereto.

                              - Gerry L'Estrange.

To ask the Minister for External Affairs whether an undertaking was asked
for that the Irish Army intelligence service would not in future involve
themselves in the affairs of the Six Counties; and what reply was given
to any such request.

                              - Noel C. Browne.

For reply on Tuesday, 26th May, 1970.

REPLY

With your permission, a Cheann Chomhairle, I propose to take questions
numbers 10 to 15 together.

The Ambassador was invited to call on the Deputy under Secretary of
State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at 5.30 p.m. on 20th May
in connection with another matter.   At the conclusion of the discussion
on that matter, it was conveyed to him that the presence of an Army
Officer in the North had caused some embarrassment to the authorities
there.   The Ambassador was asked to convey this to me.   There was no
question of a diplomatic protest being made.