

NATIONAL ARCHIVES**IRELAND**

Reference Code: 2001/6/550

Title: Copy note of an interview between Minister for Justice Desmond O'Malley and Ambassador of Great Britain to Ireland John Peck, regarding incursions by British troops into the Republic of Ireland.

Creation Date(s): 10 July, 1970

Level of description: Item

Extent and medium: 3 pages

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Access Conditions: Open

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

SECRET

13th July 1970.

Dear Paddy,

As you are aware I saw the British Ambassador on Friday, 10th July.
I enclose a note of the discussion.

I give in the attached statement a brief outline of each of the seven incidents in relation to which I had received police reports. The Ambassador asked to be informed of them.

Yours sincerely,

Minister for Justice

Dr. Patrick J. Hillery, T.D.,
Minister for External Affairs.

**SECRET**

ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT
(Department of Justice)
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
(Dublin)

Note of interview between the Minister for Justice
and the British Ambassador at 4.15 p.m. on Friday
10th July 1970.

Subject: Incursion by British troops
from across the Border.

1. The Ambassador was introduced by Mr. Ó Gallchobhair of the Political Division of the Department of External Affairs. The Secretary of the Department of Justice was in attendance.
2. The Minister expressed his concern to the Ambassador at the frequency with which British troops were coming into the Twenty-six Counties in recent months, sometimes questioning residents at gun-point and the Minister went on to say that local residents, in particular, had expressed such strong resentment that the Minister thought it well to advise the Ambassador that a repetition might give rise to an untoward incident which would be a matter of regret by all. The Minister mentioned, in reply to the Ambassador, that there had been seven separate incidents in respect of which he had received police reports and that local rumours were to the effect that there were many more such incidents.
3. The Ambassador enquired if the Minister's expression was in the nature of a formal protest and if his visit would be the subject of a statement and the Minister replied that it was not his intention to issue any statement but that ~~it~~ it might be necessary, in answer to a Question in that regard in the Dáil on Tuesday or Wednesday (14th or 15th July), to say that he had seen the Ambassador and had drawn his attention to the matter.
4. At the Ambassador's request the Minister undertook to send him particulars of the 7 incidents.

Note

While the discussion was in a late stage of progress the Minister for Defence arrived in the ante-room with the intention of



ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT
(Department of Justice)
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
(Dublin)

2.

being present at the discussion but the Minister for Justice who had not an awareness in advance of Mr. Cronin's purpose concluded the discussion without him.

10th July 1970.