

NATIONAL ARCHIVES**IRELAND**

Reference Code: 2002/19/466

Title: Letter from [?TJ Horan], Ambassador of Ireland to Sweden, to the Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs, concerning reports in Sweden of a bomb explosion in Belfast on the previous day, and a broadcast of an interview with Joe Cahill on Sveriges Radio [Swedish Radio].

Creation Date(s): 26 August, 1971

Level of description: Item

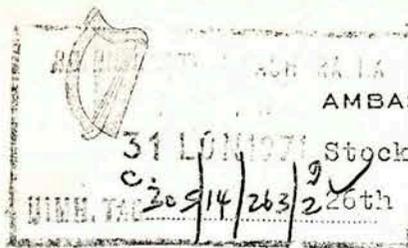
Extent and medium: 2 pages

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.

Our ref. D.1.1



AMBASSADE D'IRLANDE

Stockholm,

26th August, 1971

Secretary,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
Dublin.

CR. 305/14/418 + *enclosure*

I have the honour to report that yesterday evening's TV newsbulletin's both at 7 p.m. and 7,30 p.m. reported the news of a bomb explosion in Central Belfast yesterday morning, as a result of which one person was killed and 33 injured. One could see the wounded being removed on stretchers to ambulances.

This piece of news was the prelude to what the announcer described as "an exclusive interview with the most wanted man in Ulster", Joe Cahill of the I.R.A. which Sveriges Radio's reporter, Lennart Widblad, had secured. I think I gathered that the interview took place in a Dublin hotel.

It began by showing Cahill addressing the press conference which he organised in Belfast a few weeks ago. We then saw scenes of Belfast with posters such as "Buy Irish, Boycott British". In reply to questions he said that they have been very successful so far, the main reason being that they have the people with them. In the 40's and 50's they enjoyed "a certain amount of support", but now they have at least 90% of the Nationalist population behind them. "This is very helpful indeed" and enables him to "move around freely".

As far as I can remember I think he said that he had been in the I.R.A. all his life, left it in the late 50's or early 60's, but rejoined it again in August, 1969. He is a family man, has a wife and six children.

cont'd.....

cont'd.....



AMBASSADE D'IRLANDE

-2-

He looks forward to returning to them "when we are victorious". With the support they have, they can have nothing else but success.

The interviewer's next question was something like this:

"Mr. Brian Faulkner has described your people as "sub-human murderers". How do you regard yourselves?"

Mr. Cahill's reply was

"As men inspired by the highest ideals. And that is more than Faulkner can claim. He is a man without a country".

Mr. Cahill was then asked if it was easy to get recruits. His reply was to the effect that recruits keep flocking in. He did not think that any revolutionary movement had ever been so fortunate in the matter of recruits. He attributed this to the fact that the people are with them.

Answering further questions, he admitted the British Army is "one of the best-equipped armies in the world", and have access to all sorts of arms and armaments. Nevertheless, they are prepared to fight them. He was asked to explain how this was possible, in view of his statement at the press conference that they were running short of ammunition. He said that that was "true at the time", but, now that they have gone back to guerrilla tactics, they have enough ammunition for their purposes.

To the best of my recollection, the interview ended on this note. The 7 p.m. news on TV channel 2 lasts 10 minutes and it was featured at some length in this; but in the 7.30 p.m. news - the main news - on TV channel 1, it was dealt with at length, and, I would say, was allotted at least 5 minutes' time.



Ambassador