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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

5th June 1972

Dear Secretary

My wife and I attended the Trooping the Colour on Saturday morning and the reception which the Prime Minister gave afterwards.

I had only a brief opportunity for a private chat with him. In the course of it he said that "things are going a little better" in the North. He expressed warm appreciation of the recent steps which have been taken in Dublin. He realised, he said, that the Taoiseach would have found it difficult to act in this way until he was fortified by the result of the Referendum. "Willie is very pleased with the turn which events have taken".

He went on to say that, according to reports, some of the IRA Leaders have taken refuge in the Bogside and added "we will have to be patient about this no-go area".

I had hoped to have an opportunity for a longer exchange of views with him but this was not possible in the circumstances.

What struck me most forcefully about him was the manner in which he went out of his way to pay us attention. This was, no doubt, a studied effort in the presence of my diplomatic colleagues. For example, there were a few drops of rain as we reached Downing Street. Like most of my colleagues I did not have a raincoat.

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The Prime Minister insisted that I should have one of his. He called an attendant and instructed him to "go up to my room and get a raincoat for the Ambassador". As it happened the coat, which caused general amusement, proved very useful to my wife as the morning was rather chilly.

Yours sincerely

DONAL O'SULLIVAN

Ambassador

H J McCann Esq.  
Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs