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Title: Dáil Questions, with reply, addressed to Taoiseach Liam Cosgrove by Desmond O'Malley TD, regarding the arrest off Helvick Harbour, County Waterford, and subsequent release, of the MV *Claudia*, which was carrying arms from Libya for the use of the Irish Republican Army.

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QUESTIONS NOS. 1 to 4.

DÁIL QUESTIONS addressed to the Taoiseach
by Deputy Desmond O'Malley for answer
on Wednesday, 23rd May, 1973.

QUESTION NO. 1.

To ask the Taoiseach by whom the decision was taken to allow the m.v. Claudia to leave the jurisdiction approximately 12 hours after her arrest off Helvick Harbour, County Waterford.

QUESTION NO. 2.

To ask the Taoiseach the action taken by the Attorney General in relation to the m.v. Claudia before it left the jurisdiction.

QUESTION NO. 3.

To ask the Taoiseach if the reason given by the Minister for Defence in his reported remarks for the release of the m.v. Claudia namely, that the captain and crew were doing it for money, was the only reason for the release of the ship.

QUESTION NO. 4.

To ask the Taoiseach if the Attorney General or the Minister for Justice directed that the captain and crew of the m.v. Claudia should be thoroughly questioned to enable all the circumstances of that ship's voyage up to its arrest off Helvick Harbour, County Waterford, to be fully investigated; and, if not, why.

REPLY:

With your permission, Sir, I propose to take Questions Numbers 1 to 4 together.

The decision to let the m.v. Claudia resume her voyage was taken by me. I had considered the facts reported to me as well as confidential reports which it would not be in the public interest for me to disclose.

The remark made by the Minister for Defence, as referred to in Question No.3, related to the fact that no charges were preferred against the Captain or crew of the vessel. That

2.

course was adopted after consideration of a number of factors including the confidential information which I have already mentioned. Quite properly, the Minister did not refer to my reasons for advising the adoption of that course.

The Attorney General had no function in relation to the boarding of the vessel or to letting her proceed on her course. It is not the practice nor is it necessary for the Attorney General or the Minister for Justice to give directions relating to the questioning of persons suspected of criminal offences or who can assist in the investigation of crimes.

That is a matter for the Garda Síochána. I am satisfied that the Gardaí carried out their duties in relation to the incident referred to in these questions in a competent and proper manner - as did the members of the Defence Forces and the staff of the Revenue Commissioners who were involved. I wish to take this opportunity to commend them all publicly.

5 tons of arms

Saltee.

Dumping of arms

All arms seized

Who authorized

Deposited
by Garda