

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



<b>Reference Code:</b>	2006/133/606
<b>Title:</b>	Typescript copy letter addressed to the President of Ireland, Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh, from Patrick Donegan, TD, Minister for Defence, expressing apologies for comments by him with respect the President's referral of the Emergency Powers Bill, 1976 to the Supreme Court to test its constitutionality
<b>Creation Date(s):</b>	19 October 1976
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	1 page
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
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19 October 1976.

A Uachtarán Uachtail,

I wish to refer to what I said yesterday at Columb Barracks, Mullingar regarding the reference by you of the Emergency Powers Bill, 1976 to the Supreme Court on the question of constitutionality.

In the statement issued by me last night through the Government Information Service, expressing my regret, I indicated my intention to offer my apologies to you as soon as possible.

Pursuant to that intention the Secretary of my Department, on my instruction and in my presence, sought from your Secretary this morning an appointment for me with you so that I could offer my apologies to you in person to-day. As you did not find it possible to accede to my request for an appointment, I hasten to make my apologies to you, sincerely and humbly, by this letter.

In making my apologies I would like to refer particularly to what I said regarding the non-reference by you of the Criminal Law Bill, 1976 to the Supreme Court. My mention of certain provisions of that Bill was for the purpose of stressing that you did not consider it necessary, after your consultation with the Council of State, to refer that Bill to the Court. I wish to assure you that my references to that Bill were not intended either directly or by implication as in any way reflecting on you.

Specifically I wish to tender to you my very deep regret for my use of the words "thundering disgrace" in relation to you.

I repeat my expression of sincere and humble apology.

Mise le harr,

AIRN COSANTA

Uachtarán na hÉireann  
Áras an Uachtaráin  
Faiche an Fhionn Uisce  
BAYLE ÁTHA CLAIRN, 8