

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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S. 16571^U

23rd March, 1976.

Dear Martin,

I enclose a letter addressed to the Taoiseach received from Rev. Brian Brady, Trench House, Belfast. I understand from John McColgan that you may be well qualified to advise on the terms of a suitable reply by the Taoiseach's Private Secretary. Would you be good enough to let us have a draft fairly quickly?

Yours sincerely,

Wally Kinnear

Mr. Martin Burke,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
Iveagh House,
80, St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.



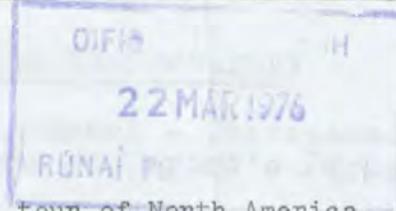
Principal:
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ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
TRENCH HOUSE BELFAST, BT11 9GA

18 March 1976

Telephone 617631

Mr Liam Cosgrave T.D.,
Taoiseach,
Government Buildings,
Merrion St. Dublin,



Dear Sir,

During your highly publicised tour of North America you dealt extensively and intensively with IRA violence and the support which it is receiving from the USA.

May I ask you some questions:

- Do you know of the existence of the Loyalist (Protestant) violence represented by the statistics on the enclosed document?
- If you know about it, why does it not even get a paragraph in your speeches or the speeches of your Ministers?
- Why have the state-controlled news media in the Republic of Ireland adamantly refused to do in-depth programmes on intimidation, sectarian assassination of Catholics, torture by the security forces and other practices which are oppressing the Catholic community and driving some of its members towards violent activities?

When! Oh when! will our fellow Catholics and their leaders in the safety of the Republic of Ireland do something effective to protect us from extermination at the hands of Protestant extremists? Honeyed words about agreed solutions, shared government and that much misused term 'reconciliation' cut no ice with those bent on genocide. The blood bath is not coming;

it is here. As Catholics we need protection and we are not getting it from a British Government which seems to be incapable of impartial administration of the law.

The genocide I speak of is the age old problem of N. Ireland and will be with us as long as N. Ireland exists as a separate entity. Pre-1969 the genocide was largely effected by political manipulation which effectively controlled the population balance; now it is being achieved by sectarian assassination and intimidation.

At this stage you may be tempted to ask: what should I be doing that I am not doing? I make the following suggestions:

- Direct involvement of the Republic of Ireland in the affairs of N. Ireland through an interim condominium arrangement as initially proposed by the SDLP
- Guarantor status for the Republic of Ireland in relation to the Catholic community and its rights
- The use of governmental resources at home and overseas to expose the injustices which gave rise to the present troubles and which have in fact become more severe than ever
- The mobilisation of the Irish race at home and abroad for the political fight to obtain justice for all people living in the island of Ireland.

By the time this letter reaches you a few more will have died. On recent patterns, it is most likely that the bulk of them will be defenceless Catholics. Are you prepared to help in the defence of those who remain?

Yours very sincerely,

Rev. Brian J. Brady.

INTIMIDATION OF CATHOLICS FROM NEWTOWNABBEY

In Newtownabbey there are 5 Catholic parishes - Whitehouse, Greencastle, Whiteabbey, Glengormley and St. Gerard's Parish Antrim Road.

Prior to 1969 the Catholic population of this area was growing rapidly. Indeed the present 5 parishes were created by the division of the old Whitehouse parish in that year.

St. James's Parish, Whiteabbey.

Catholic population in July 1969 2,500 (expanding at the rate of 2/3 families per week)
" " " March 1976 1,100

Baptisms: 1971----- 71.
1972----- 43 Only 8 of these children remain in parish
1973----- 37 " 20 " " " " " "
1974----- 21 " 12 " " " " " "
1975----- 18 " 12 " " " " " "

Parish primary school for 800 pupils completed in 1972 now has 220 on rolls and is still declining.

Star of the Sea Parish Whitehouse.

The parish primary school in Rathcoole had 1,000 children in 1969;
it now has 160 " in 1976.

Greenisland (The part of Carrickfergus parish bordering on Newtownabbey)

Catholic population in July 1969 1,500
" " " March 1976 580.

The Catholic families who left these parishes were
either petrol-bombed out of their homes
or had shots fired into their homes
or had members assassinated
or received threats (anonymous phone calls, bullets in letters etc.)
or their children were beaten up in the area

Note: The RUC have free and unimpeded access to all parts of this area.

March 1976