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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

NOTE:

DEATH OF CARDINAL CONWAY

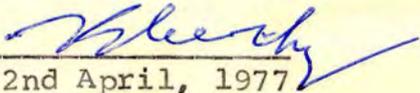
As directed in the Secretary's note of 19 April under, I notified the Administrator of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, of the Taoiseach's intention, and that of six Ministers, to attend the ceremonies on Friday 22nd April. We had also learned that the former President, Mr. O'Dálaigh, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Mr. Joseph Charleton, would attend and I mentioned this to the Armagh authorities as well. On the Taoiseach's instructions, the Leader of the Opposition was contacted to see if he required any advice in relation to the ceremonies. Information on form of dress, security, etc, was given to him. The Administrator was also informed that Mr. Lynch intended to be present.

On our instructions, the Department of Justice made the necessary security arrangements in respect of the President and the persons mentioned above. The Gardai contacted the RUC and as a result it was decided to use two Border crossing points i.e. Middletown and Killeen. The RUC had also requested that the number of cars be kept to a minimum and arrangements were made with the Ministers concerned to share cars. It was also arranged that certain Ministers would use Middletown and that the remainder would go through Killeen. As an added security precaution the RUC furnished the registration numbers and makes of their security escort cars which would be meeting the ministerial cars when they reached the Border posts. These details were conveyed to the members of the Government concerned and to the President. It was established that the former President, Mr. O'Dálaigh would be travelling in a chauffeur driven car with his brother-in-law and Mr. John Charleton. The registration number and make of the car were obtained from Murray's Car Hire and this information was passed on to the Department of Justice (the RUC had specifically requested it).

The Department of Foreign Affairs obtained permission from the British authorities for the ADC to the President to wear uniform while in Northern Ireland. The question of whether the Ministerial drivers could carry firearms while in the North was investigated and the advice of the Department of Justice was that this was not permissible and that the firearms would have to be surrendered at the Border.

Arrangements for the Ceremonies

Dress for the ceremonies was full morning wear and the Taoiseach and Ministers were informed accordingly. The Taoiseach was not accompanied by his ADC due to the latter's unavailability. It was established that most of the Government party would remain in Armagh for lunch and this was mentioned to the Administrator.


22nd April, 1977

*1-4 to 8 Balfour
2-4 to 10/11/77
To see it
3-4 to 10/11/77
All next
newspaper
reports (from
one of the
articles) for
file including
the report that
will be in
the morning's
articles
Pud 27/4*