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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

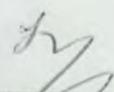
Uimhir.....519873.....

Rúnaí

Re your minute of the 13th instant under, the only British Royal Jubilee of which we have a record is that of the Silver Jubilee of the late King George V in 1935, when an invitation to the then Head of Government (President of the Executive Council), Mr. Eamon de Valera, to attend Celebrations in London was declined. The reasons for non-acceptance (partition and the land ammunities dispute) was set out in a lengthy letter which Mr. de Valera sent to the then British Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, on the 16th May, 1934. Further communications from London about "celebrations which it may be decided to arrange in other parts of His Majesty's dominions" were simply noted. There does not appear to have been any celebration in Dublin - which is hardly surprising at a time when we were in the middle of the Economic War and of course there was no British Diplomatic Mission here then (S.6668)

A Garden Party arranged jointly by the British, Canadian and Australian Embassies in Dublin was held at the British Embassy on the 2nd June, 1953, to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. It was arranged at a meeting of the Government on the 12th May, 1953, that the members of the Government would decline invitations to the function and that an intimation of the Government's intention would be conveyed to State Officials and Army and Garda officers to whom invitations were likely to be sent. The then Taoiseach, Mr. de Valera, in reply to a Dáil Question on the matter on the 21st May, 1953, said that he and the other members of the Government were unable to accept the invitations "in view of the fact that the Royal Style and Title were unnecessarily - and deliberately - linked up by the British Government with the Partition of our country and with the British claim to sovereignty over part of our national territory" (S.15256).

The attitude that members of the Government should adopt to invitations that they might receive to the religious service and the subsequent reception on the 7th June is a matter which might be raised informally at an early meeting of the Government and is one on which they should expect to be advised by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. My personal view is that it would be desirable that the Government should at least be represented at the service.


14th April, 1977.

Spoke to Secy D/F.A. and suggested that he should speak to his Ministers with a view to his Ministers being in a position to give his colleagues advice on the matter in due course

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