

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



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PSM
PSS
Mr. O hUiginn

Mr. Swift
Mr. Nally, D/Taoiseach
Mr. P. Walshe

[Handwritten signature]

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR ASST SEC NELIGAN FROM AMBASSADOR
UUUOIUYT

1/9/79

10.00

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US MEDIA 31 AUGUST REPORT FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN TAOISEACH AND THE BRITISH PM IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

- 1 THE BRITISH PM WILL PRESENT THE TAOISEACH WITH A SECURITY SHOPPING LIST.
- 2 THE LIST WILL INCLUDE DEMANDS THAT THE RUC SHOULD BE ALLOWED CROSS THE BORDER TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS, THAT THE GARDAI SHOULD BE REORGANISED AND THAT WE SHOULD PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO IRA ACTIVITIES INCLUDING TRAINING, BOMB MAKING AND BANK ROBBERIES.
- 3 THE TAOISEACH WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION FOR WELL-KNOWN BRITISH VISITORS TO IRELAND.
- 4 THE REPUBLIC IS A SAFE HAVEN FOR TERRORISTS.
- 5 THE IRISH AUTHORITIES ARE UNHELPFUL IN MATTERS SUCH AS ARMY TO ARMY CONTACT AND EXTRADITION.

THE US MEDIA REPORTS ARE ATTRIBUTED EITHER TO QUOTE BRITISH OFFICIALS UNQUOTE OR QUOTE BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SOURCES UNQUOTE OR IN SOME OF THE MORE EXTREME PRESENTATIONS E.G. CBS RADIO AFFILIATES ARE NOT ATTRIBUTED BUT ARE OBVIOUSLY BASED ON BRITISH BRIEFINGS. INQUIRIES MADE HERE SUGGEST THAT BASIS FOR REPORTS WAS A BRIEFING GIVEN IN LONDON ON 30 AUGUST.

[Handwritten notes on left margin: Note same as PEO were any one to us Dick to his Irish to you report clearly not office]

2. ALTHOUGH THE MEDIA REPORTS DO NOT SAY SO, THE IMPLICATION IN THE PRESENTATION IS THAT THE TAOISEACH HAS BEEN SUMMONED TO LONDON TO BE GIVEN A LECTURE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH SECURITY PROBLEMS.

3. THE REPORTS ARE CARRIED IN MOST MEDIA AND WITH CONSIDERABLE PROMINENCE AND ARE LIKELY TO DAMAGE MANY OF OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS VIVHERE. GIVEN THE EXTENT OF THE COVERAGE, IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US WITH OUT LIMITED RESOURCES TO COUNTER IT EFFECTIVELY BUT YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER HAVING THE MATTER RAISED AT THE FORTHCOMING LONDON MEETING WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THAT THE PRESENTATION AFTER THE MEETING IS SOMEWHAT MORE HELPFUL FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. MEANWHILE WE ARE USING ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO COUNTER THE NEGATIVE COVERAGE AND ARE RELYING HEAVILY ON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE SECURITY BRIEF PREPARED IN YOUR DIVISION.

END

QIAYTLUHQO

[Handwritten signature: Taoiseach To see M. Ja 5/9]