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|| January 1980

Fr. Murray and Fr. Faul
Parochial House
Armagh.

Dear Father Murray and Father Faul

I have received your letter and enclosure of 28 December last concerning your representations to the Ambassador in Washington. The Ambassador is replying directly to the letter addressed to him by you and Father Brady.

I and the Government have full confidence in Ambassador Donlon and his staff. His conversations with Congressman Fish have not touched on the case of those convicted of the Birmingham bombings of 1974. They have been about the Congressman's interest in promoting contacts between elected representatives from both parts of Ireland and U.S. elected representatives.

Yours sincerely

BRIAN LENIHAN

Brian Lenihan, T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Phone : Armagh 522302

Parochial House

ARMAGH

26 December 1979

Mr Brian Linchan
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Leinster House
DUBLIN

X Dear Mr Linchan,

Enclosed please find copy of letter Fathers Brian Brady, Denis Paul,
and Raymond Murray have sent to the Irish Ambassador to the United States
xxxxxxxxxxxx Mr Sean Donlon.

We hope that he will cease thwarting our efforts in the cause of
justice and peace in the north of Ireland.

Beir buaidh

Raymond Murray
Denis Paul X

Mr. Nelligan
For appropriate attention please

Phileas Smith

Private Secretary

2 January 1980

Raymond Murray

Denis Paul

25 November 1979.

Mr. Sean Donlon,
Ambassador of Ireland,
2234 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20003
U.S.A.

Dear Ambassador Donlon,

It has been intimated to us that you have attempted in recent weeks to dissuade our good friend Congressman Hamilton Fish Junior from pursuing his interest in the case of six Irishmen convicted of the Birmingham bombings in 1974. If this information is correct then it is a matter of great concern to us.

We have been interested in the cases of these six men since the very beginning. An exhaustive study of their cases has led us to the conclusion that their convictions were obtained by a series of injustices dating from the moment of their arrest. They were gravely ill-treated by the police during interrogation and by wardens after their remand to Winson Green Prison. Their conviction rested heavily on forensic evidence resulting from tests of doubtful validity. The validity of the tests used has been called in question even more since the conclusion of their cases.

In the interests of justice, both to the men themselves and their families who are deeply scarred by hardship and a sense of the injustice inflicted on them, we believe that their cases should be reopened. In the present anti-Irish climate in England, especially in the courts, it is impossible to get a retrial. Hence one of our number, Father Murray, sought the help of Congressman Fish in exposing the injustice and hopefully in gaining a re-trial.

The allegation that you were working against us in this matter and trying to thwart our efforts to obtain justice has caused us deep distress. That distress has been made even more acute by the further allegation that your representations to Congressman Fish implied that Father Murray's credibility was in question. It has been suggested that you advanced as evidence in support of your attempted denigration of Father Murray, comments of the Grand Master of the Orange Order and of the ex-leader of the SDLP on an out-of-context quotation from a sermon of Father Murray. That you should be prepared to quote the opinions of the leader of Orangism and of a politician aptly described as "going for the jugular" (D. McKitterick, Irish Times, Nov. 24, 1979) of those with whom he disagrees, in order to discredit a Catholic priest in good standing in his own diocese, would, if true, be gravely disturbing.

Before taking this matter further, we feel that we should, in all fairness, give you the opportunity of responding to the allegations being made against you. We are particularly

interested in having unequivocal answers to two questions:
- Did you make representations to Congressman Fish either directly requesting him to drop his interest in the Birmingham case or implying that he might be well-advised to do so?

- Did you as part of such representations convey to the Congressman criticisms of Father Murray made by third parties which could be construed as lessening or even destroying his credibility?

We look forward to an early reply from you to the issues raised in this letter and in particular to your answers to the questions posed.

Yours faithfully,

Brian J. Brady

Rev. Brian J. Brady,
St. Joseph's College
Trench House,
Belfast 11.

Denis Faul

Rev. Denis Faul,
St. Patrick's Academy,
Dungannon,
Co. Tyrone.

Raymond Murray

Rev. Raymond Murray,
Parochial House,
Armagh City,
Co. Armagh.