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IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

21 August, 1981

Dear Ronan

hm 27/8/81

The Foreign Office have written to the Embassy following a conversation ^{with} Hugh Swift in which he had asked informally about the purchase of 'helicopter gunships', which he thought were called chinooks, by the British Army. I gather that Hugh had asked for enquiries to be made but there does not appear any correspondence from the Department on this matter. The FCO have now replied that the Ministry of Defence is buying chinook helicopters from the United States. It adds that these could not at all be regarded as helicopter gunships but are large load carrying helicopters intended for moving stores and equipment and sometimes passengers. There is no present intention of using them in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely

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