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25/7/81
AMBASSADE D'IRLANDE

6/22

Tehran
5 July 1981

Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs

For the attention of Mr. M. Collins, Anglo-Irish Division

Dear Michael,

With reference to my minute of 6 June 1981 concerning publicity given to the IRA in Iran, I am attaching two further news cuttings which appeared at the time of Bobby Sand's hunger strike. Since then there has been relatively little in the Iranian media although it was reported that a message of condolences following the recent death of several leading Iranian Government Ministers and parliamentarians was sent to Imam Khomeini by the Sinn Fein "Foreign Relations Office". There has also been at least one documentary programme on Iranian television dealing with the situation in Northern Ireland which included interviews with Mrs. Bernadette Mc Aliskey and IRA leaders, some of whom were masked. It was apparently part of a series of programmes relating to "liberation struggles" throughout the world and highlighted such scenes as the burning of the British Embassy in Dublin in 1972 and military preparations at IRA training camps.

As a result of further contacts with members of the British Interests Section of the Swedish Embassy here, it would seem that, in the absence of any American representatives, the U.K. is being treated by the Iranian authorities as the bête noir of world imperialism. While it is probable that this relates primarily to Britain's former colonial role in Iran and its present position as a close ally of the U.S., it is also the case that the Northern Ireland situation is being used as a further stick with which to beat the British and may even have been an element in delaying the normalisation of diplomatic relations between Iran and the U.K. which had been expected to take place before the start of the British Presidency of the EEC.

M. de H. Stohr

Charge d'Affaires a.i.

c.c. Mr. P. Gunning, Political Division

P.S. I am also attaching copies of a minute to Information Section and a telex re new Iranian F.M.

against religious activities in Iraq. The opposition, led by the Party is gradually, but steadily, gaining momentum in that country.

PARS INTERVIEWS LEADING IRISH FREEDOM FIGHTER

In an exclusive interview PARS London-based correspondent had with the chief secretary of the Strikers in Belfast Prison in connection with the hunger strike of Bobby Sands, the IRA representative elected to the British Parliament, the following highlights were released. "The Catholic youths of Ireland, with the full support of the people, have been fighting the presence of the British Army in their country for the last 50 years. They have given thousands of sacrifices to see the departure of the British forces from Northern Ireland and to establish a popular democratic government," said the main in-charge of the hunger strikers in the Northern Irish prisons.

He went on to say: "Although the foremost demand of the freedom fighters in Northern Ireland is complete independence from Britain, the political prisoners are making 5 basic demands considered by all to be the basic human rights for all political prisoners. They are:

- 1) Permission to wear their own clothing rather than prison uniforms.
- 2) Permission to receive at least one letter a week from their family.
- 3) To be allowed to receive one meal a week from home.
- 4) To be allowed to have contact with other prisoners.
- 5) Not to be forced to perform hard labour in the prison.

The Irish Freedom Fighter added that the British Government in the past had agreed with such legitimate demands, however, since Bobby Sands has been elected by a majority vote and cannot be dismissed from Parliament so easily, they are refusing to keep their previous promises until Sands dies from his protest. In conclusion he told PARS repor-

ter that in the same way as the Iranian people sacrificed so much to win their Islamic Revolution, the youth of Ireland will continue to sacrifice until complete victory.

THE IRANIAN NATION HAS NO LONGER ANY TRUST IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

The Iranian Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs, Mohammad Hashemi, in a private meeting told the British Counsellor, Mr Stephen J Barret, that the Iranian nation has no longer any trust in the British government. The Iranian official told the British Embassy official that in addition to the normal and international considerations for establishing diplomatic relations with the countries of the world, the Iranian government also attached importance to certain other criteria in doing so, among them the degree of the trust of the Iranian nation in that country, records of the conduct of that government with Iran and past experiences, the attitudes of the particular foreign government towards the various events and developments in the world, and their knowledge of the Islamic revolution.

He criticised the pro-American attitude by the British government during the seizure of the former U.S. Embassy compound by the Muslim Students Following the Imam's Line in Tehran, and the studied silence by the British government towards the Iraqi invasion against Iran under the guise of what Britain had termed a principle of 'impartiality'. The Iranian official also pointed to what he termed 'biased reporting' in the British press against the Islamic revolution. He said flatly, however, that the Iranians did not really expect the western media to praise the Islamic revolution but at least rather to reflect facts simply as they are.

MAJLIS (PARLIAMENT) MEMBERS CONDOLENCES ON BOBBY SANDS HUNGER STRIKE

In connection with the historic fight and resistance of Bobby Sands, the representative of the

people of Ireland to the British Parliament, a message was sent to the people of Ireland by some deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

The message reads: "Bobby Sands, a freedom-seeking man who is your real representative added yet another case of the heavy file of the crimes by the world oppressor the United States, Britain, and their allies. This crime clearly shows the characteristic style of imperialism, which is now in its death throes. Bobby Sands is not the only victim, rather there are millions of people who are being victimized as a result of poverty, ignorance, and the imposed wars of imperialism throughout the world every day. In particular, we witnessed the residential areas being bombed in the revolutionary Iran every day and also many people being killed as a result of these attacks by the Iraqi regime. But God has promised the victory of the oppressed over the world oppressors.

"We close this message with the hope of seeing the Rule of God and the destruction of the rule of the vain."

Jihad 10 May 1977

Prime Minister's Message on death of Bobby Sands

The Public Relations Office of the Prime Ministry released a message on May 6th praising the resistance of the Irish freedom-fighter, Bobby Sands, who died in a Belfast jail after over sixty days of hunger strike:

"In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

"Bobby Sands, the Irish freedom-fighter, is not the first victim of the empty form of democracy in the West nor will he be the last one. The numerous crimes of the West in its colonies has made history bloody, and now it is the right time for all of the oppressed nations of the world to rise up and destroy the colonialist governments of the world. You Irish freedom-fighters may be assured that final victory belongs to the oppressed, and that the enemies of freedom will be defeated. This has been shown by the Islamic Revolution of the Moslem people of Iran, and now it is your cries that will be heard by the world and the banner of your struggles will be hoisted.... We will pray for the victory of the nation of Ireland and all of the oppressed people of the world."

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on Death of Bobby Sands

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps issued an announcement on the occasion of the sad demise of Bobby Sands, on May 6th. A part of the announcement said:

"In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

"Sands has passed away... Sands, this legend of resistance and struggle who sacrificed his life for the revival of the human rights of his nation and on the path of his faith. There are many others like Sands, who are sacrificed every day for the sake of the giant oppression of imperialism, and it is only the deprived masses who get inspiration from their liberating messages and who would finally rise up to put an end to all tyrannies and oppressions.

"The combatant people of Ireland are aware of how the Moslem people of Iran, relying on their faith, succeeded in defeating the aggressive imperialism of the West and East.

"The Islamic Revolution Guards, announcing their support for the vallant struggles of the Irish people, express their sorrow over the lack of such heroes like Bobby Sands and with success for the awakened nation of Ireland against the British expansionists."

Revolution Guards Message to Irish Strugglers

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps sent a message to the freedom-seeking people of Ireland and announced its support for Irish strugglers, especially Bobby Sands, whom the Corps called "a symbol of resistance against the oppressive rulers of England." "We give a message of freedom to the people of Ireland, freedom and liberation from the hands of England that once had its hands on our people too," the message continued. In another part of the announcement the Guards stated that the Iraqi bombardment of houses and hospitals, and the British aggressions in Ireland, show the deceptive nature of the international Human Rights organizations and the like, and show the true path for achieving liberation.



"Message of Revolution" - May 1987