

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2013/27/1500
Creation Date(s):	7 March 1983
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
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Ein-fhreagra ar an litir seo, is mar seo ba choir e stiuradh:—

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(The Secretary)

fe'n uimhir seo:—
and the following number quoted:-

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cc Mr. Brangan
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P-A

NI/15

7 March, 1983.

Dear Margaret,

I have your letter of 1 March seeking material for a brief that you are preparing for your Minister's visit to the United States.

You will appreciate that constraints in relation to possible identification of and risk to sources must of necessity inhibit us to some degree in relation to the disclosure of details in relation to some of the information sought by you. However bearing that in mind I will do my best in the ensuing paragraphs to give you as comprehensive a briefing as possible regarding the matters raised.

We are aware that in April 1980 Mike Flannery, a Noraid Trustee, was guest of honour at a Cumann Cabrach dinner in Dublin attended by Rory Brady and Daithi O'Connell. A special presentation was made to Flannery at this particular function. We are aware that Flannery was also involved in October 1982 in arrangements for a Provisional Sinn Fein sponsored tour in the U.S.A. Members of Noraid coming to Ireland in recent times are known to have been in contact with prominent members of the PIRA and the Gardai are aware that Noraid members were heavily involved in activities in the U.S. regarding the case of Desmond Ellis recently deported here to face serious charges before the Special Criminal Court.

We have very little information regarding the Irish National Caucus that would not already be available to yourselves - indeed most of our information in this regard comes from your Department. As you know prominent members of the Caucus who came here some years ago initiated and attended gatherings with prominent PIRA personnel.

There is not a great deal of concrete information available regarding the flow of funds from the U.S. We believe that in the latter half of 1982 something in excess of 200,000 dollars was received by PIRA from Noraid sources. There can be little doubt however that a considerable amount of Noraid funds has been devoted to the purchase of arms in the U.S.

The distribution of Cumann Cabrach monies is difficult to probe but given the fact that those running the organisation are themselves enmeshed in and promoting violence there can be little doubt that if the need arose such monies would be channeled into the purchase of equipment rather than the relief of families in need of assistance.

In the matter of gunrunning we do not have statistical data regarding the country of origin of weapons seized but even if weapons seized were of U.S. origin we would not feel confident in concluding that they had been smuggled in from the U.S.

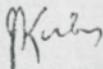
There have been a number of spectacular arms seizures in recent years - in 1979, 151 firearms bound from the U.S. were seized at Dublin Port; in May 1981 nine automatic rifles were seized at Kennedy airport on route to Dublin (a previous consignment had been imported successfully in prior weeks) and early last year an attempt to import a substantial quantity of guns and ammunition was foiled by the U.S. authorities. In the two latter cases convictions were obtained in large measure through the close cooperation that exists between the U.S. authorities and the Gardai.

I understand that you have been given details of arms finds in recent years and while, as I have said earlier, no statistics are maintained regarding country of origin it would seem that in recent years most weaponry seized is believed to have come from the U.S.

The Department does not receive copies of the Irish People but the Gardai say that their understanding is that the Phoblacht/Republican News is mailed on a regular basis to the U.S. and suitable articles from the latter are published in the former.

There are no indications of links between the P.L.O. and PIRA beyond possible exchanges of information on their various activities. Other European terrorist organisations have also sent fraternal delegates to Sinn Fein Ard Fheiseanna but this would seem to be the extent of their associations in recent times.

Yours sincerely,



J. KIRBY

Ms Margaret Hennesy,
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