



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Note

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*Mr. O'Donoghue*

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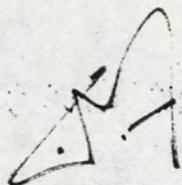
I received the Libyan delegation this morning. A report on the discussion is being prepared and will be circulated. Following consultations with the Secretary, I raised the question of public statements previously made by the Libyan leader which were supportive of the IRA. I thought it more appropriate to do so after the meeting in private conversation with Mr. Alatrash, leader of the Libyan delegation.

I based myself on the speaking note furnished to the Ambassador Rome for his demarche to his Libyan counterpart in May 1984 following Col. Ghaddafi's public statement of support for the IRA in the aftermath of the shooting incident at the Libyan Embassy in London in which a policewoman was killed. I made the following points:

- Referred to public statements previously made by the Libyan leader which were supportive of the IRA.
- These statements had compelled the Irish authorities on a number of occasions to make clear to the Libyan authorities their view of the IRA and its activities.
- The IRA is an illegal organisation engaged in terrorist activities in Ireland, North and South, as well as in Britain. The IRA's stated objective is to subvert the Irish State.
- The IRA's murderous campaign makes the achievement of a peaceful settlement to the complex Northern Ireland problem, to which the Irish Government is committed, even more difficult.
- In the light of this, the Irish Government must view support for, or offers of support for, the IRA as totally unacceptable.

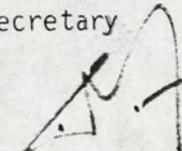
Mr. Alatrash asserted that Col. Ghaddafi had never made any statements in support of the IRA. Any statements he may have made relating to Ireland would have been confined to support for the achievement of the independence of Ireland. Press reports to the contrary were untrue and probably instigated by the Western enemies of Libya, particularly the US. Mr. Alatrash referred to the fact that our countries did not have reciprocal resident diplomatic missions and that this had obviously led to misunderstanding on this matter. If there had been resident missions, what Col. Ghaddafi had said on occasion relating to Ireland could have been checked and clarified. I pointed out that our Ambassador in Rome, who was accredited also to Libya, had made a demarche to his Libyan counterpart in May 1984 arising from reported

statements at that time by Col. Ghaddafi which were supportive of the IRA. The Ambassador, however, had got little or no satisfaction. Mr. Alatrash suggested that our Ambassador in Rome keep closely in touch with the authorities in Tripoli on such matters involving relations between Ireland and Libya. He reiterated that Col. Ghaddafi did not support the IRA's activities in Ireland.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.A.', written over a horizontal dotted line.

23rd January, 1986

Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.A.', written over a horizontal dotted line.

To see, please

23rd January, 1986

c.c. PSM

Mr. O'Tuathail ✓