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Reference Code:	2016/52/95
Creation Dates:	7 April 1986
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
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IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

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7 April 1986

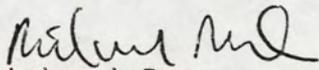
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Dear Assistant Secretary

A word with the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers

Havers was critical of Tom King's performance on the media last weekend: Havers felt was irresolute and vacillatory. He felt King gave little confidence to TV viewers generally or, more importantly, to the RUC and their families. He said he could not understand why King had not got the Chief Constable and the GOC to request an immediate transfer of 500 troops to protect "RUC... areas" and to be prepared to announce another 500 troops without delay if the first 500 were not immediately seen as enough. Havers wondered who King could be talking to; why he was not getting stronger advice; and why Mrs Thatcher herself has not let fly personally in the face of this disgraceful behaviour. He said people here are noticing the way in which Loyalist is now becoming "Loyalist" here, even in the Times.

Yours sincerely


Richard Ryan
Counsellor

4.00pm

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Taoiseach
Minister
Minister for Justice
Attorney General
Secretary
Mr Nally
Mr Ward
Mr Russell
A-I SECTION
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Mr. Lillis