



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA  
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.  
Dublin 2.

CONFIDENTIAL

10 February 1987.

*B7 Special Ref.*

Mr. Richard Ryan,  
Counsellor,  
Embassy London.

Dear Richard,

Sinn Féin and the Labour Party

We are aware from contacts in the North that Sinn Féin are or may be considering the possibility of laying down arms in the event of a new Labour Government coming to power in Britain and issuing a declaration of intent to withdraw from Northern Ireland.

We would be interested in anything the Embassy has turned up or may turn up about recent contacts between Sinn Féin and the Labour Party. We have noted of course the Embassy's reports on Peter Archer and Stuart Bell in particular, and the recent brou-ha-ha about Northern Ireland policy in the Party Committee. These reports are of great interest here: keep them **ring!**.

It would also be very helpful to us in preparation for the aftermath of our election to have your overall assessment of how Northern Ireland policy is likely to change or develop within the Labour Party and what we may be faced with by way of British Government/Sinn Féin contact if the Labour Party comes to power.

Yours sincerely,

Declan O'Donovan.