



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2017/10/41
Creation Dates:	20 October 1987
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
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9/11

Meeting between members of all-party delegation
and the Birmingham Six

Wormwood Scrubs, 20 October 1987

1. Deputies Peter Barry, Geraldine Kennedy and Dick Roche met the prisoners for less than an hour. The following were the main points made in the discussion:-

- the Crown were likely to call 70 witnesses to refute Clarke's testimony, most of whom would have to submit their evidence by affidavit;
- the prisoners were anxious about the likelihood of a reserved judgement being held over until after Christmas;
- they were very pleased with the Taoiseach's speech at Bodenstown: "he had done all he could";
- all six were conscious of the need for publicity: they wanted influential people as observers at the trial, but were anxious that there should be no demonstrations. They had great confidence in their legal team of Lord Gifford, Michael Mansfield and Richard Ferguson;
- two prison officers will be called to give evidence as to their physical state on arrival in Winston Green, but the prisoners felt that the discrepancies in the confessions and the forensic evidence should be sufficient;
- it was certain that Tom Clarke would be "pulled apart" and his character "assassinated" by the Crown;
- the prisoners had had no problem about meeting with counsel; they had had weekly meetings with their barristers, and their solicitors were working as a team;

- it was essential that their case should stand or fall on its merits and not be linked with extradition which was an entirely different matter for negotiation between the two Governments; their case was a matter of justice .

2. The men were in good spirits and appreciative of the Deputies' visit. They were 90% sure of success, but twinges of doubt remained. They hoped they were mentally prepared for a knockdown but they needed a commitment to continued support if they failed in the Court of Appeal this time. The Deputies all assured the prisoners of future support.

Brian O'Reilly

B. O'Reilly
Third Secretary

3 November, 1987

cc Ambassador
Staff 6/11
Mr. J. Dwyer DFA