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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.
Dublin 2.

25 November 1987

Mr. Brian Collinge
Department of the Taoiseach

Dear Brian

I refer to your letter of 11 November to Declan O'Donovan regarding Mr. Ciaran de Baróid's letter to the Taoiseach of 30 June.

We took up the cases in the Secretariat with the British authorities. We had already raised the question of house-searches with them on a number of occasions and the cases submitted by Mr. de Baróid provided further evidence of the kind of resentment which house-searches conducted in this way gave rise to in the nationalist community. On 4 November, partly as a follow-up to the cases raised by Mr. de Baróid, officials of the Department had a meeting (in the Secretariat) with NIO officials, and a number of Army Civil Representatives in Northern Ireland, who have a role in this area (in the matter of compensation etc.).

In regard to the cases cited by Mr. de Baróid, the British side have not responded in detail on a case by case basis, but are fully aware of our concerns about them. In regard to compensation, perhaps you might wish to suggest to Mr. de Baróid that he or the individuals involved might take up the matter - if they have not already done so - with the Army Civil Representative in West Belfast, Mr. T. Stewart, Building 15, Girdwood Park, Antrim Road, Belfast (Tel: 741474). It was made clear to us at the meeting on 4 November that the Civil Representatives were most keen to be of assistance in sorting out any practical difficulties which might arise from house searches.

We would suggest a reply to Mr. de Baróid along the lines of the attached draft.

Yours sincerely

Brendan McMahon

DRAFT

November, 1987.

Mr. Ciaran de Baróid,
Belfast.

Dear Mr. de Baróid,

The Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D., has asked me to write to you again about your letter of 30 June regarding house searches in the Ballymurphy area. At the Taoiseach's request, the Department of Foreign Affairs took up the cases in question with the British authorities, through the Anglo-Irish Secretariat, conveying to them the strong sense of resentment which house searches conducted in this way gave rise to in the nationalist community. Stress was placed on the need for greater sensitivity by security forces carrying out the searches. In regard to searches involving British Army personnel, you might wish to approach the Civil Representative for West Belfast, Mr. T. Stewart, Building 15, Girdwood Park, Antrim Road, Belfast (Tel: 741474), about the cases. Apart from assistance which he might be able to give in regard to the general conduct of house-searches, he has a particular role in relation to compensation and a meeting with him, if not already arranged, might well be of benefit.

Yours sincerely,

Private Secretary to Taoiseach.