



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2018/28/2298
Creation Dates:	10 March 1988
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.



TELEPHONE
(212) 319-2555

mac brian

CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND
515 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022-5494

*cc Gail Keene
Paul Keene
Cassidy H/*

March 10, 1988.

Mr. Dermot Gallagher
Assistant Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin.

Dear Assistant Secretary,

Mr. John Stanley, Minister for State of the Northern Ireland office, was at dinner last evening at the home of the British Consul General. I had briefed a number of guests at the dinner beforehand including Maureen Murphy, Monsignor James Murray and Joe Fallon. Other guests included Hellerstein, who is one of those who investigated the Diplock Courts in Northern Ireland for the New York Bar Association and Reverend Thomas Wilson a Presbyterian Minister of Scottish background who is very active in interchurch affairs in New York.

Professor Murphy rang me this morning to give me a report on the dinner. She said that Stanley had been given a grilling and that it had been put to him very strongly that the British need to make some significant gestures in the administration of justice in Northern Ireland if they are to achieve any credibility in the Irish American community. Without such moves the Irish American community would begin to distance themselves from the Agreement. Hellerstein was particularly good and said that the American Bar Association believes that the question of 3 judges in the Diplock Courts is a matter of logistics and not of judicial principle adding that movement in this area would go further to bolstering British credibility with the Irish American community.

On several occasions Stanley hid behind phrases saying that his interlocutors would not make the demands they were making if they knew all the facts. According to Murphy those present refused to accept such a defence.

It was pointed out to him that in the American press those who criticise British policy couple Stalker and MacBride. Stanley was very defensive on MacBride and went to great lengths to describe the new British proposals on discrimination in employment as 'draconian'. I had briefed Professor Murphy in detail on the British proposals and on our views and she argued a case similar to our own. She

questioned him in detail on their proposals.

On current difficulties Stanley said that he deeply regretted what he called this extraordinary set of circumstances. Had he been asked before Christmas that so many difficulties would have arisen he would not have believed it would have been possible. He was confident, however, that both Dublin and London had held and must hold a steady course, that Anglo Irish relations in general have not been impaired and the Anglo Irish Agreement is intact.

Monsignor Murray raised the McAnaspie killing saying that this young man had been harrassed for a considerable time by the security forces before he had been shot dead.

Stanley was very diffident on the release of Private Thain. He argued that it was acceptable to release him because the murder he committed had not been premeditated. When pressed by Professor Murphy to do the same for prisoners in Northern Ireland he pointed to his record on Christmas parole for prisoners adding that he expects the remaining SOSF's will be released within two years. Some of those present suggested he should give them all dates now.

He did not have very much to say about the killings in Gibraltar but he did mention that in his view the Irish Government is rushing fences by calling for investigations into Aughnacloy and Gibraltar. He said that he was afraid it would boomerang on the Government.

Yours sincerely,

D. O'Ceallaigh

Daithi O'Ceallaigh
Consul General.

cc: Ambassador, Washington