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W. W. W. W.

SEC 5/3/1/4

BRITISH EMBASSY,
DUBLIN.

29 April 1988

Mr Noël Dorr
Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs
St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

*Mr. Conroy -
Pl. cc #/see Gallagher.
Mr O'Donoghue.
Comptroller A1
& Secretariat
Amb London
Amb Washington.
R. M. W. 29/4/88.
Note: 2/3 research already
has a copy*

Dear Noel,

*PA
G-13 file*

When we spoke on the telephone this afternoon I promised to send you the text of the Prime Minister's reply this morning to a question from a Japanese journalist for NHK.

She was asked whether she was furious with ITV for persisting in screening their programme "Death on the Rock" in spite of the Foreign Secretary's recommendation that it be deferred until after the inquest.

Mrs Thatcher replied:

It is not a question of being furious it is much deeper than that. The freedom of people depends on the rule of law and a fair legal system. The place to have trials is in a court of law. Trial by TV or guilt by accusation is the day that freedom dies. Press and TV rely on freedom. Those who do rely on freedom must have the duty and responsibility and not try to substitute their own system for it.

As we agreed, I am sending a copy of this letter to Dermot Nally.

*yours ever,
Nick Fenn*

N M Fenn

RECEIVED
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