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Conversation with Paddy McGrory

I lunched with Paddy McGrory after his meeting with the Tanaiste and the Gibraltar relatives today. He was a little apologetic about raising the question of a State action in Strasbourg at the meeting and noted that he had stressed the possibility for the relatives of taking personal actions in the Northern courts.

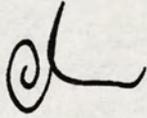
McGrory has been pressing us privately to agree to the attendance of the State Pathologist, Dr. Harbinson, in Gibraltar (he did not mention this at the families' meeting with the Tanaiste). I said this would be very difficult for us and asked if he had any alternatives in mind. He said he had approached the Northern Deputy State Pathologist, Dr. Carson, of whom he has a very high opinion, but he was reluctant to do it. He may approach Dr. Declan Gilsehan who frequently operates as Deputy to Dr. Harbinson here. He said Dr. Harbinson was extremely interested in the case, had already done a lot of work on it and hoped to be able to attend. There was a practical problem in that he could not ask somebody to take over at the last minute. I asked whether he would want to put his expert Pathologist in the witness box. This will depend on the scientific reports he has asked for on the official postmortem, but it is a distinct possibility in his mind.

He is still upset by remarks made by British tabloids and, especially, by Michael Mates associating him with the Provos and is worried about the effect on his reputation. He is pursuing an action against Mates. There have been attacks on his office since Mates' remarks and he has lost unionist business.

There is renewed speculation about the succession to Barry Shaw as DPP. He thinks the British are still hoping to get Michael Lavery but that Lavery is unlikely to settle for DPP when he could have a high court judgeship. The IRA statement saying

Judge Higgins was the target of last Saturday's explosion at Killeen (which McGrory thinks dubious) will strengthen the reservations of Lavery and his family.

I said we would keep in touch during August.



Declan O'Donovan

28 July 1988

c.c. Mr. Gallagher
Counsellors

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