



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.
Dublin 2.

NO 23

But look
with Simon Home
that a copy of
this
BT

Confidential

25 November 1988

*I note:
I covered girl / food
decision on this to grant
fallout by phone
7/12
Mr W. J. Murphy
7.12.88*

Mr Dermot Nally
Secretary to the Government

Dear Dermot

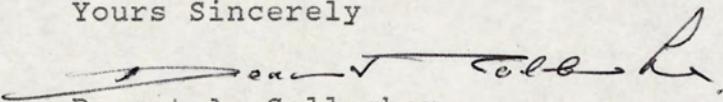
The Department of Communications informed us yesterday that their Minister may raise the question at Cabinet this morning of using his power under S.110 of the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act 1983 to direct An Post to refrain from making an arrangement with Sinn Fein whereby a substantial discount would be given for bulk mailings to the United States appealing for funds. Since the Tanaiste will be absent from Cabinet today, I am writing to you to provide our official observations.

We are conscious that a direction by the Minister may create trouble in terms of Sinn Fein propaganda or even court actions. It is also highly unlikely that refusal of the arrangement will prevent these bulk mailings going ahead by other means. We are conscious, however, that Sinn Fein is now seeking to organise directly in the United States and that these bulk mailings will assist in that effort. We are also conscious that some of the funds obtained in North America may well be used to support the IRA rather than to fill the election coffers of Sinn Fein.

On balance, we think the Government should not put themselves in the position of seeming to permit Sinn Fein to make an advantageous arrangement with An Post for an appeal for funds in

the United States.

Yours Sincerely



Dermot A. Gallagher

Asistant Secretary