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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.
Dublin 2.

*Taiceadh
To see floors
17*

July 1988

Mr. Dermot Gallagher
Assistant Secretary
Anglo-Irish Division

*cc: Mr. Concannon ✓
Mr. Keenan ✓
Mr. Proctor, DOJ ✓
Box*

*Julian J. Houran
15/7*

Dear Assistant Secretary

In the course of our contacts with Northern officials, we have occasional comments on the SDLP/Sinn Fein contacts. These are generally conventional and predictable. They range from scepticism to a degree of hostility and we have not bothered to report on them. It is taken for granted by all that the most that could be attainable is a split in Sinn Fein/IRA. It is perhaps worth mentioning, however, that a number of officials, including Sir John Blesloch, recently commented to me that they would regard such a split as a negative development. Blesloch assumed that an object of the exercise was to detach Gerry Adams from Martin McGuinness and commented that a rump IRA, uninhibited by any political considerations on INLA lines, could be even more dangerous than the present situation. I have since heard this echoed by a number of other officials, so it seems to be something of a settled view in the NIO.

Yours sincerely

Sean O Huiginn

*PSM
M. Nally
P.P.*

Sean O Huiginn

*Mr. McCloskey
(Dr. ref. win)
To see pl
hmk*

