



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2018/68/15
Creation Dates:	1 December 1988
Extent and medium:	4 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

MO (0)

*Mr Mc Donnell
12.88
7/12*

17 Grosvenor Place,
London SW1X 7HR.

1 December, 1988.

*cc PRU; AG
Mr Waller / pcc
Mr Mulholland / Mr Russell
Mr Barron
(3) Connelly AM
Pca.*

CONFIDENTIAL - BY COURIER SERVICE

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

Dear Assistant Secretary,

A meeting with Michael Mates M.P.

We ran into each other in the Commons and had a "robust exchange". I said that his posture, claiming special validity for his remarks last Tuesday on the basis of his support for the Anglo-Irish Agreement, did not impress me. Apart from Dublin, I said, very many of his colleagues found the terms and tone of his question which, with respect, they and I believed was a planted one, to be gratuitously offensive, inflammatory and without foundation in the facts of the matter. I said I wanted him to give me time (he was already trumpeting) to lodge the facts of the matter with him, and did so.

He said that if, for any reason, Ryan could not have been arrested, then our law was an ass. He also attacked strongly on the point about Patrick Mayhew's failure to contact John Murray over the weekend. Mayhew, he said, had told him he was furious about this.

I said that his view of the law was curious but that we had to stand, despite his view of it, on the fact that we are all bound by the law and must work - as John Murray is - within it. I said that as I understood it, John Murray had engagements outside Dublin all weekend and asked whether he was aware of the comprehensive co-operation between the Attorneys' offices during the previous week. He said he was indeed, and when I asked him what in fact he knew and he said so, I was able to say that his version was

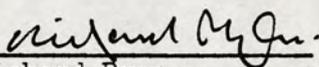
2/.....

thin, incomplete and basically potty. I gave him in detail what had happened and, in the process, covered the points about the seriousness of the errors in the documents sent from London. Mates grumbled on points of detail but it seemed that the main points at least struck the mark.

He alleged that the Taoiseach was using the Attorney General to prevent extradition. At this I let the tone of the argument warm up, and argued that on this, as on so much else, he finds himself free to offer gratuitously offensive generalisations which show no regard or respect for the facts and the legal realities in the Republic. Wait and see, he said, Father Ryan will never be extradited to Britain. I said I did not see how that, if it turned out thus, could have any bearing on the matter: the due process of the law is being pursued by John Murray. If that leads to a further legal process in the Courts, that too, and the outcome, is a legal matter and outside the Government process. Mates rather sneered at this and continued to allege that the legal process (both the Attorney General and the Courts) is amenable to direction by the Government.

We did not part in a very friendly way. Mates continues to show a sneering and patronising attitude to the independence of our political and legal processes. There can be little doubt that he resents the fact of no longer being "Mr. Ireland" at Westminster and is seen, rather, as the Government's plant on the floor when nasty Irish business has to be done. While I deliberately left Mates in no doubt that we despise and reject his remarks and the tone of them (I believe that he is one of those around Westminster who need direct talking), the personal feeling he left was of what it might be like to try dancing with an over-sized but not cerebrally endowed armadillo.

Yours sincerely,


Richard Ryan
Minister-Counsellor

AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN, LONDAIN.



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

December, 1988.

*Mr W. Carthy
7/11
7.11.88*

1010

17 Grosvenor Place,
London SW1X 7HR.

CONFIDENTIAL - BY COURIER SERVICE

*PRU; AC
M. Wills; PCF
M. de la Harpe/De Russell
M. P. Ross
(3) Charles A.
Rood*

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

Dear Assistant Secretary,

A meeting with the Shadow Attorney General,
John Morris, Q.C., M.P.

It was, as you know, a Private Notice Question from Morris which forced Sir Patrick Mayhew to make a statement on the Ryan case and enabled a debate on it.

At lunch on Thursday with the Shadow Foreign Secretary, Gerald Kaufman, M.P. (reported to you separately), I suggested that Morris, who was surely preparing his material for the debate, might like to have a briefing from me. Kaufman thought that this was very important and rang Morris who agreed. I stressed the need for confidentiality, given the circumstances, and they agreed fully with this. I met Morris in his office in the Commons and gave him a detailed 20-minute briefing before P.M.'s Questions at 3.15 (his PNQ followed immediately on this).

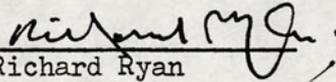
I gave him the precise chronology of events and our version of how they unfolded. I cleared up for him the points about the defects in the warrants. Also, we covered the point about the interim warrant for the arrest of Ryan. He asked for the wider political background, from Dublin's perspective, of the extradition question (on which he is generally quite strongly in favour of smooth arrangements), and we covered this too. He said he fully accepted our good faith in the matter, both generally and in the context of the Ryan case.

2/.....

I rather played up the background of repeated and continuing errors of substance in British warrants, something for which the Government will not, it seems, face responsibility square on but tries instead to nudge responsibility in our direction. He said he would cover this point as well as the other points made to him.

He found the discussion very useful, he said, and proposed another meeting when there would be more time and less pressure. I agreed to this.

Yours sincerely,


Richard Ryan
Minister-Counsellor