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IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

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*cc PS Tavis 20.1
R-S
Mr Mally; PSS
Mr Matthews/Tracy
Counselor & I,
JSOR*

26 January 1988

Dear Assistant Secretary

Stalker/Sampson: a word with Lord Havers

Havers said again (he mentioned this in confidence previously when he was Attorney General) that there was enough on the file to warrant prosecutions up to Superintendent or Chief Superintendent level in the RUC, but Hermon himself was not involved.

He had, he said, decided that in the case of the Toman, McKerr and Burns killings, there should be prosecutions of three RUC officers for the Toman killing. He had, he said, been under pressure at that time from within the RUC not to go for prosecutions, but he ignored it.

He said that if he were now the Attorney General he could not have taken the same decisions as those announced by Patrick Mayhew. He could certainly not go along with the suppression of prosecutions in the case of perversion of justice. He was very strong on this point.

He asked me not to convey these comments on our "Needham machine".

Yours sincerely

Richard Ryan
Richard Ryan
Counsellor