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*Taoreath  
To see please  
27/11*

NOTE

I spoke to Ambassador O'Rourke this morning. He had paid calls on the new Cabinet Secretary (Butler) yesterday and also on Boyd of the F.C.O.

Essentially, the Cabinet Secretary said that the decision not to prosecute was not a political decision but was one taken by the DPP. It was a decision for the Law Officer and not a collective Government decision. From this, it would appear that the matter had not gone to Cabinet.

Boyd took much the same line and said that the matter had been handled in London in a hands off way. It had not been weighed politically there and he gave the impression that the FCO were no better informed than the Embassy in advance on the matter. The above raises the question of whether the members of the Government concerned with Northern Ireland will try to distance themselves from the Mayhew statement. However, it is still too early to make any kind of adequate assessment of this. *Subsequent*

*possibly we might say that the above line is a particularly convenient one for them to take*

*DAG*

Dermot Gallagher

27 January, 1988.