



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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TO HQ FROM BELFAST  
12 SEPTEMBER 1988

IMMEDIATE  
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FOR A/SEC GALLAGHER FROM C. O FLOINN  
PLEASE COPY PSS, JOINT SECRETARY O HUIGINN, O'DONOVAN

ATTACK ON HOME OF SIR KENNETH BLOOMFIELD  
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FURTHER TO TELEPHONE CALLS THIS MORNING WE HAVE BEEN SPEAKING TO THE BRITISH SIDE ABOUT THE ATTACK. THEY HAVE JUST TOLD US AT (11 A.M.) THAT THE EXPLOSIVES CONSISTED OF FOUR LOADS OF 20LB EACH OF SEMTEX. ONLY TWO OF THE FOUR DEVICES EXPLODED. (MEDIA REPORTS OF A DETONATOR AND A BOMB ARE THEREFORE NOT ACCURATE). THE BLOOMFIELD HOUSE IS, IN THE WORDS OF THE BRITISH DEPUTY JOINT SECRETARY, "A WRITE-OFF". SIR KENNETH, HIS WIFE MARY AND THEIR SON ARE NOT INJURED BUT ARE SUFFERING FROM SHOCK. THEY HAVE ALL BEEN TREATED IN HOSPITAL AND DOWNTOWN RADIO REPORTS THAT SIR KENNETH HIMSELF HAS NOW BEEN RELEASED.

THE BRITISH DEPUTY JOINT SECRETARY SAID THAT KING RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TOMORROW'S MEETING SHOULD GO AHEAD IN THE LIGHT OF THE ATTACK. HOWEVER MASEFIELD STRESSED THAT THIS WAS MORE "THINKING ALOUD" AS AN IMMEDIATE REACTION TO THE NEWS THAN ANY SERIOUS QUESTION-MARK OVER TOMORROW. THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR TOMORROW'S

CONFERENCE ON THE BRITISH SIDE SCHEDULED FOR 11 A.M. TODAY HAS BEEN PUT BACK TO 12.30 P.M. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT BLOOMFIELD WILL NOT NOW ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

THERE IS AS YET NO CLAIM OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK BUT MASEFIELD REMARKED THAT THE SECURITY FORCES HERE HAD BEEN AWARE FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS THAT THE PROVISIONALS WERE "CHECKING OUT" THE NORTH DOWN COASTAL AREA IN GENERAL WHERE, AS YOU KNOW, MANY SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS, JUDGES, ETC LIVE.

ENDS  
/////

2245

*NK*  
*5/2*  
*12/9*

cc P.S.T.  
P.S.H.  
Mr Nelly; *ALL*  
Mr Mathew / Mr Brown  
Counsellor A1

