



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2018/68/40
Creation Dates:	16 September 1988
Extent and medium:	2 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.

~~Mr McCarthy~~
lun
18.9.88

W. G. G. G.

←

NOO 13

16 September, 1988.

Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, KCB,
Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

Dear Ken,

I was appalled to hear of the bomb attack on your home earlier this week and was very relieved to hear that you and your family escaped serious physical injury. This was no thanks to the ruthless people who planted the bombs and whose objectives are chillingly clear. I understand that your house is a "write-off" and while it is a blessing that you yourselves escaped, all of us realise the emotional investment that goes into one's home and its contents over the years of a life together. Please accept my sympathy on this outrage.

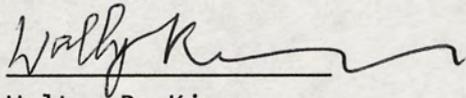
I have seen and congratulate you on the statement you made on the attack. It expresses well what those of us in the Civil Service here who have had the experience and privilege of dealing with you have come to recognise. Indeed, while we inevitably approach work dealing with Northern Ireland from different perspectives, your statement spoke, I hope, for all of us, in its references to impartial service of the public and to your determination to continue, undaunted and unintimidated, your efforts in that cause. While you are, clearly, very much in the front line, it remains for all of us concerned in the three public services in these islands to continue our efforts to bring about a situation in which people, above all in Northern Ireland, can live their lives in conditions of peace, prosperity and dignity.

- 2 -

I hope and pray that your wife and son will get over the shock and horror of this murderous attack.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wally Kirwan", written over a horizontal line.

Walter P. Kirwan,
Assistant Secretary.