



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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*Mr Mr (Conroy) ...
11.3.88
11/3
PSM
PPS
Mr Wells
Mr Maltewo / Mr Tuerma*

CODE MESSAGE
IMMEDIATE URGENT
DATE 10/3/88
1314
IALS.....

0364C
10.3.88
TO HQ FROM BELFAST

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FOR ASST. SEC. D. GALLAGHER FROM O HUIGINN

GIBRALTAR FUNERALS

1. I RAISED SPECIFICALLY WITH THE OTHER SIDE THE QUESTION OF WHO NOW HAD CUSTODY OF THE REMAINS. I AM NOW INFORMED THAT THE REMAINS ARE STILL PHYSICALLY IN THE ROYAL NAVAL MORGUE IN GIBRALTAR BUT HAVE BEEN RELEASED FOR COLLECTION BY THE RELATIVES AT ANY TIME THEY CHOOSE.

2. I DISCUSSED WITH THE OTHER SIDE THE DANGER THAT A FUNERAL CORTEGE FROM DUBLIN TO BELFAST COULD BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PROPAGANDA EVENT AND THE POLICING DIFFICULTIES THAT COULD BE INVOLVED BOTH FOR THE GARDA AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE SO FOR THE RUC ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE BORDER. I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF FACILITATING A DIRECT FLIGHT TO BELFAST IN THE EVENT THAT THE FUNERAL ORGANISERS WERE PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE THIS AND AVAILING OF ANY OPPORTUNITY TO STEER THINGS THIS WAY. THESE POINTS ARE, I THINK, FULLY APPRECIATED BY THE OTHER SIDE. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, NOW INDICATIONS OF A LIKELY DIFFICULTY WITH HANDLERS IN ALDERGROVE ALSO. WHILE THE OTHER SIDE WOULD I THINK WISH TO BE HELPFUL THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A LIMIT TO WHAT THEY CAN DO TO INFLUENCE THE RELATIVES AND THE SINN FEIN REPRESENTATIVES WHO WILL HAVE CUSTODY OF THE BODIES. AS OF NOW THE PROBABILITY SEEMS TO BE THAT THE REMAINS WILL END UP COMING TO DUBLIN AT THE WEEKEND.

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1685

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