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Reference Code:	2018/68/60
Creation Dates:	6 October 1988
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
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Seol aon fhreagra chun:-
(Address for reply to:-)

AN RÚNAÍ
(The Secretary)

faoin uimhir seo:-
(quoting:-)

No 22



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.
Dublin 2.

*by Mr. J. J. [unclear]
3/11 3.11.88*

*copy sent to [unclear]
to [unclear]
10/10*

6 October, 1988.

Mr. Dermot Nally,
Secretary to the Government,
Government Buildings,
Merrion Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Dermot,

You asked me earlier in the week to draft a possible Government statement on the Gibraltar inquest. This is now attached.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Dermot Gallagher

Dermot Gallagher,
Assistant Secretary.

cc PSS.

Draft Government Statement on the Inquest into the deaths
in Gibraltar on 6 March, 1988

In their statement of 29 April 1988, the Government said they expected that the fullest possible information on the events of 6th March in Gibraltar would be provided by the inquest and that any further inquiry or legal action necessary to uphold the rule of law, without fear or favour, would be instituted. The Government have noted the verdict of lawful homicide in all three cases by a majority of nine to two of members of the jury and have now considered the report of their legal observer on the proceedings.

The IRA have accepted that the three persons who died were on an active service mission. The Government wish to make it clear at the outset that they utterly deplore the apparent intention of the IRA to take human life in Gibraltar. They fully recognise the necessity for the security authorities to take all reasonable measures to combat terrorism and to prevent the loss of human life.

The Government also wish to acknowledge the impartial and thorough manner in which the Coroner conducted the inquest within the limits established by law and within certain other limits on the availability of evidence.

The Government consider, however, that where there exists a public doubt about operations of the security forces which have led to the loss of life, it is vital that the fullest possible inquiry should be made with the object of allaying concern. There is and can be no parity between the lawful security authorities and the terrorist and, in the interests of democracy, terrorists should be given no possible basis to make that claim.

For this reason, and because it is clear that the inquest in Gibraltar was not in a position to examine all aspects of the incidents of 6 March, the Government have made known their considered view to the British Government that a judicial enquiry should now be instituted into the circumstances of the deaths of the three people on the 6th March.