

PRESS CONFERENCE BY MISS MARIA McGUIRE

- 1: Because of harassment of British newspapers since my return , I have decided to give this short conference.
- 2: I wish to expose to the eyes of the Irish people the role of the British press who acting in the true Philby tradition attempted to prevent aid coming to our people in Northern Ireland by exposing people on the continent trying to get assistance for the North. I wish also to point out the unholy liaison between the British Secret Service and the British Press.
- 3: My visit to the continent was undertaken to assist in negotiations for military aid for the defence of the people in the North. It was intended to purchase equipment and import it into the Six Counties. My contribution consisted of linguistic assistance in travelling , business appointments and all necessary arrangements inseparable from doing business in semi- clandestine circumstances , as was evident from the intervention of Inspector Winslow of Scotland Yard.
- 4: In particular, I wish to refute a number of veiled and sometimes not too oblique suggestions in some sections of the English press as to the nature of my association with Mr. O'Connell while abroad . Both Mr. O'Connell and I fully appreciated that we were putting ourselves in a compromising position in the eyes of the British press (who are such staunch upholders of moral value) and having generally to accept the role of a romantic couple to protect our cover and mission. I wish to put it categorically on record that there was nothing improper in my association with Mr. O'Connell and I wish to pay tribute to him as a man of integrity and courage. I would like to warn the British press that they have no licence to indulge in character assassination of this sort and if they persist in it they will have to be prepared to answer for it in a court of law.
- 5: I wish to announce that a public meeting will be held in the Mansion House at 8 p.m. on Monday , November 1st at which the speakers will include : David O' Connell, Joe Cahill and myself.

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