

RESTRICTED



cc: Mr Erskine
Mr Spence
Mr Small
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Mr Dowdall
Mr Bell
Mr Cole
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Mr Devitt
Mr Masefield (NIO)

Secretary

TRAVEL TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

On 15 January I sent you a copy of a Paper which had been prepared by FCO giving advice on the precautions which Ministers and officials visiting the Irish Republic should adopt during the Irish EC Presidency.

The recently formed Security Advisory Committee within NIO, on which DFP Security Branch is represented, has drawn up for NIO officials a list of key points to bear in mind when visiting the Republic of Ireland. A copy is attached and although it does, to some extent, replicate the earlier advice you may find it a useful aide-memoire.

Joan O M Frame

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Departmental Security Officer

15 June 1990

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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE (HCS) (HD) NOTICE

Date of Issue: 1 June 1990

HEADS OF NIO DIVISIONS



TRAVEL TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

As colleagues will already be aware, there is an element of risk involved when NIO staff and Northern Ireland Civil Servants travel to the Republic of Ireland. I circulated guidance prepared by the FCO in January 1990. However I thought that you might find it helpful to have a list of key points to bear in mind when you do travel to the Republic of Ireland on official business.

2. Unless they are experienced, staff travelling to other countries on official business are always welcome to consult Security Section (L).
3. HCS Staff wishing to go on holiday to the Republic of Ireland are asked to notify their Head of Division and may then care to consult Security Section. It may be prudent to let someone in your Division know your outline itinerary.
4. There are special arrangements for Ministerial visits to the Republic: in every case SIL and the Secretariat must be consulted in advance. The Embassy should in addition be notified, via SIL, of any visits on NIO business or on other business affecting matters of broad policy.
5. These notes are intended for general guidance, and as a reminder of the need for common sense precautions. Inevitably these notes may not quite fit the exact circumstances of your position or the proposed visit. There is, so far as I am aware, no heightened threat currently, but any visitor to the Republic should be prepared for the unexpected!

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Any enquiries about this item should be addressed to Jackie Sear or David Coleman of Security Section (L) (or myself) on GTN 210-6559 or 6563 respectively.

(Signed)

MR R C MASEFIELD
Establishment Division
NIO(L)

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TRAVEL TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND - KEY POINTS

General

- Please act at all times with discretion while visiting the Republic of Ireland. Avoid, so far as possible, any actions or remarks which would identify you to strangers as an official of the United Kingdom Government.
- In so far as possible, avoid establishing a pattern of regular visits or timings.
- You should use individuals' names rather than referring to the Department or some other official body when booking flights etc.
- Ensure the Embassy is notified of your plans, when this is appropriate.

Travel

- If there is any security implication, do not discuss travel arrangements on open telephone lines. (Voicelok can be used to speak to the Embassy about movements or matters which are themselves classified up to Confidential.) For arrangements which do not carry any security risk, the ordinary telephone is acceptable.
- Do not discuss business or personal matters with strangers or fellow travellers when your conversation may be overheard.
- Do not read official correspondence on public transport.
- Preferably travel in company, but not large groups.
- Always keep your case and hand baggage with you.

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- On arrival check the identity of the driver meeting you and your party.

- Current security advice is that any staff who may be at risk must not travel by train or bus to the Republic of Ireland when on official business. This is kept under review by the RUC, as is their advice that the Capital Airline Service between Dublin and Belfast may be used unless there is any security risk attaching to the individual traveller. Official or private cars may be used unless, again, there is particular reason not to do so.

- You should not carry official passes with you.

- To guard against the possible risk of interception by terrorists, it is greatly preferable not to carry official papers with you in a car (unless escorted by the Garda and RUC on the respective legs). The Embassy is coming on to BLIS and the diplomatic bag can also be used to send some papers on ahead.

- Try to avoid arranging meetings by letter through the open post. (Remember SIL, the Secretariat and the Embassy can all assist.) Ministerial plans must never be so arranged.

- In an emergency in the Republic the Garda Siochana can be contacted by dialling 999.

- Do not get drunk. Have a good trip!

Establishment Division
NIO(L)
June 1990

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