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PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIALBRITISH EMBASSY,  
DUBLIN.
*Rufus* *CS*  
*Ruinai Cúnta* <sup>28</sup>/<sub>6</sub>  
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2/22

5 November 1971

*by des Taoiseach,*

My Government have been making a very thorough investigation of the various incidents in which it has been claimed that British armed forces have crossed the border into the Republic. I am in process of sending the results of the detailed examination to the Department of Foreign Affairs, and I expect you would prefer it if I did not burden you personally with them at this stage. I am therefore writing to assure you most emphatically that British Army units are not crossing the border deliberately, that all units operating in the border area have strict instructions to this effect, and these instructions have been made even more explicit. Where explosions near the border are deemed necessary, they are to be carried out so that no debris falls upon the territory of the Republic, and where British and Irish maps do not agree, the orders are, pending any firm ruling, to follow the more restrictive line from the northern point of view.

2. On a different subject:- I have a message to convey to you from the Prime Minister. You will recall that at Chequers it was agreed that your meeting in London "scheduled for the autumn.....will be held on dates to be announced later". Mr. Heath has asked me to say how welcome you will be at any time; but he fully understands that your many preoccupations could make it hard for you to leave Dublin at present, and he does not want to add to your difficulties by proposing a definite date at this stage.

3. May I add a personal note. I am afraid that owing to circumstances outside my control I shall have to be in London during the first three days of next week, but I should like to take this opportunity of sending you my personal regards and best wishes.

*Yours very sincerely,*  
*John Peck*

John Peck

The Taoiseach, Mr. J. Lynch, TD,  
 DUBLIN.