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Title:	Confidential note written by Sean Ó hUiginn , First Secretary in the Information Section of the Department of Foreign Affairs, concerning his meeting with Mr Boerries Gallasch of the German news magazine <i>Der Spiegel</i> . The objective of the meeting was to discuss intelligence that Mr Boerries Gallasch had obtained from leaders of the IRA [Irish Republican Army], and specific topics discussed included plans for an IRA bombing campaign in London, and arms trafficking.
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Mr. Dorr, *1/11/73*

I had lunch today with Mr. Borres Gallasch of Spiegel. I explained you had been unexpectedly detained and apologised for your absence.

I had met Mr. Gallasch in the course of a previous visit and our relations are friendly. He spoke fairly freely with me and the following points emerged from our conversation.

1. He had been in Dublin since Thursday last and had a short interview with Seamas Twomey. (He had apparently arranged this from Hamburg since he mentioned that when his arrival was delayed (plane diverted to Shannon, I think) he had to telephone ahead to the Shelbourne to get a message to the person who was to pick him up. He was met at the Shelbourne shortly after his arrival in the early hours of Friday morning and in "about twenty minutes or so" had met Twomey).
2. The main point of the interview, which is to appear this day week, is that the London bombing campaign will be resumed. He had the impression that the Provisionals were "hatching a big egg" on this and that the campaign would be a violent one. (Twomey apparently dwelt on the point that the Northern minority thought it unfair to have to wage the war against Britain on Irish territory'. Gallasch agreed that this may be an attempt to overcome the problem of dwindling support for the IRA in the North).
3. Sean MacStiofáin had been the main impetus behind the planning of the last London campaign. It had originally been planned to coincide with the Paris Summit last year but this could not be organised in time. (This might be relevant if another summit is held on the Middle-East).
4. IRA sources (not Twomey) said the present condition for a ceasefire was "the ~~the~~ withdrawal of British troops". Gallasch was inclined to see this as a softening of previous demands for a declaration of intent to withdraw from Ireland. I pointed out that, put without qualification, it was a hardening of attitude.
5. Discussing some previous Spiegel reports Mr. Gallasch said his report of Daithi O Conail "living it up" in Libyan bars had been true (and had annoyed IRA circles) but the report of his presence on the Claudia had been wrong. One of the Claudia crew mistakenly identified him from a photograph shown to him by Gallasch.
6. The request to interview Joe Cahill related to Mr. Leinhäuser, owner of the Claudia, who according to Gallasch is engaged in several dubious affairs the most prominent being the supply of arms via the Claudia for a coup in an African country due to take place in two months time. Gallasch was anxious to check the modalities of the Claudia affair with Cahill for this story.
7. Gallasch is anxious to meet Sean Mac Stiofáin and will probably do so in the course of the present visit. (He was told by IRA people here that the latter has not recovered from the effects of his hunger strike and is subject to fainting spells).
8. The above points are set out as I recall them without attempting to assess them. Gallasch feels that he is the only foreign journalist the IRA now trust to report them accurately. I think he is probably better known to Twomey than the others

although he implied he met Daithi O Conaill on a previous visit. He also mentioned that on one occasion when interviewing Twomey in Belfast, Dolours Price (Winchester Trial) had acted as liaison woman between them. He has a keen professional interest in the IRA but he accepts in discussion that *they have* negligible democratic support and their approach is basically futile. He seemed genuinely anxious to maintain close contact with the Ambassador and with the Consul General in Hamburg. The general impression I got was that while his main aim would be to preserve his sources in the IRA he would not readily agree to act as their agent for example in planting a story he knew to be false. His relatively free discussion on this occasion can I think be explained by his understanding that our talks were personal and off the record and his human desire to boast about a story which presumably will be a "scoop".

On my side I mentioned that the request for interview had been passed on to the Minister for Justice but that we had no reaction as yet from the Minister. I said that I did not think the request for a interview with Joe Cahill could be entertained since he was a convicted criminal.

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