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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

Rúnaí

Please see the attached note of my discussion last evening with the Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, about the late British Ambassador's funeral arrangements.

I conveyed the contents of the note briefly to the Taoiseach yesterday evening. I understand that he will mention the matter at this morning's meeting of the Government.

A We do not know yet whether it would be appropriate or desirable for the Taoiseach or other members of the Government to attend at Baldonnel when the remains are being removed. I expect that we will have further information on this later today. The Taoiseach may, however, wish to encourage as many of his colleagues as possible to attend the memorial service on Wednesday. I understand that he himself will be out of town on that day and, therefore, will be unable to be present.

I presume that

You will recall that the Government decided informally at their meeting on Thursday last that all Ministerial engagements should be cancelled for the present. This should apply only until tomorrow and that Ministers should be free to confirm commitments entered into for Sunday next or any that day thereafter. The Taoiseach might like to mention this point also at this morning's meeting.

2

23rd July, 1976.

Rúnaí

Taoiseach conveyed this to his
colleagues at 9.15. today
23/7/76
Taoiseach said he worked the
representative newspaper
service by Col Geadal
23/7

Re A/ above, the Deputy Chief of Protocol told me this morning that the British authorities have indicated that the removal tomorrow will be completely private. Only the family, Embassy staff and the Chief of Protocol will accompany the remains from St Vincent's Hospital to Baldonnel. The remains will be brought to Northolt and will be cremated later tomorrow. The arrangements for the memorial service on Wednesday are being discussed with the Dean of Westminster Cathedral. The likely time is 11 am on Wednesday. We will give details later. L 23.7.76
(7419)112842. 5,000. 9-75. F.P. - G28.

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

NOTE

Mr. Paul Keating, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, told me late yesterday afternoon that they had been informed by the British Embassy that the late Ambassador's widow had confirmed her wish for a private removal of her late husband's remains. It is intended that this will take place tomorrow, Saturday, and the present indications are that the remains will leave for England from Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel. In accordance with the widow's wishes, there will be no ceremonial except, perhaps, an Air Corps Guard of Honour (which, I gather, is normal in such circumstances).

Mrs. Ewart-Biggs has indicated also that she would welcome a memorial service and it is expected that this will take place -probably in St. Patrick's Cathedral - on Wednesday next, the 28th July.

Mr. Keating will contact us again as soon as his Department has details concerning the removal and memorial service.

her

23rd July, 1976.

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WJ

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