

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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## LORD MOUNTBATTEN - MEMORIAL SERVICE IN DUBLIN

### NOTE:

On Saturday, the 1st inst., the Taoiseach, having read my minute of ~~the~~ ~~that~~ date (under), himself spoke to the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Ryan, about the possibility of arrangements being made for the holding of <sup>an ceremonial</sup> ~~a ceremonial~~ Memorial Service in Dublin on Wednesday the 5th September, the date of the obsequies in Westminster Abbey, London, of the late Earl Mountbatten. Dr. Ryan readily agreed that the Catholic Church would participate "at the highest level" in any Service that might be arranged ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> he suggested that, as the late Earl was, he believed, a member of the Church of England, it would be more appropriate for the Church of Ireland authorities to arrange the Service.

The Taoiseach then spoke to Archbishop Simms of Armagh (in the absence of Archbishop McAdoo of Dublin). Dr. Simms promised to contact the appropriate Church authorities in Dublin and to advise the Taoiseach as soon as he had done so. Later that afternoon, Dr. Simms telephoned me to say that he had spoken to Dean Griffin, of St. Patrick's Cathedral, who had agreed to make arrangements for the holding of the Service. I advised the Taoiseach accordingly. I also told ~~told~~ Fr. Brendan Houlihan, Master of Ceremonies to Archbishop Ryan, and with the Taoiseach's approval, I arranged with Mr. Dunlop, Government Press Secretary, for the issue of a brief statement on the matter to the news media.

On Monday the 3rd September, Mr. Hinchy, of the GIS, had a telephone call from Dean Griffin's Vicar, the Reverend Mr. Bradley, who said that the Dean had heard the announcement of the proposed Service but that he had no arrangements to hold any Service on Wednesday. I telephoned Mr. Bradley and spoke also to the Dean himself who confirmed that it was not his (the Dean's) understanding that anything was to be arranged for Wednesday. It would, in any event, be impracticable to arrange it for that date. Apart from the short time available, there was the consideration that many people (including the Taoiseach) whom they would like to have at the Service would be in London on that day for the ceremony in Westminster Abbey. Neither would Archbishop McAdoo be available on that date. Dean Griffin concluded by suggesting that the Service might be arranged for Friday the 7th September at 5 p.m. I advised Fr. Houlihan of this development. He said that Archbishop Ryan could not attend on Friday, as he would have left Dublin with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes earlier on that day. He understood, however, that, irrespective of his own availability, it was the Archbishop's intention to suggest

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to Cardinal O'Fiaich that he might attend. (Fr. Houlihan confirmed to me that the Cardinal will be present and that the Archbishop will be represented - presumably by one of his Auxiliary Bishops).

Later yesterday, Vicar Bradley telephoned me to enquire whether the President or the Taoiseach would be willing to read one of the Lessons during the Service. Having discussed the matter with the Taoiseach, I informed Mr. Bradley that the Taoiseach will be happy to do so. I asked Mr. Bradley to let me have the text of the Lesson in advance, for the Taoiseach's information. He promised to do so.

*HJS*

4th September, 1979.

*Sunday Press  
31/9/79*

*Evening  
31/9/79*

*I Junior  
4/9/79*

## **Mountbatten service here**

At the request of the Government, an ecumenical memorial service will be held in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, next Wednesday, the day of the obsequies of the late Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

And at 6 p.m. this evening, in Mullaghmore, an ecumenical service in memory of the victims will be held on the green facing the harbour.

## **Mountbatten service Friday**

THE Ecumenical Memorial Service for Lord Mountbatten planned at the request of the Government will now take place in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin at 5 p.m. on Friday next.

The service was to have been held on Wednesday but was postponed to allow those who may be attending the burial in Britain time to return home for the Dublin service.

MEMORIAL SERVICE  
**ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL,**  
Dublin—A Memorial Service for the Earl Mountbatten of Burma will be held in the Cathedral, on Friday, September 7, 1979, at 5 o'clock and not on Wednesday as previously announced.

## **Lynch may read lesson at service**

THE Taoiseach, Mr Lynch, is expected to read one of the lessons at the ecumenical memorial service for Lord Mountbatten, planned for Friday next at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, at 5 p.m.

The service was to be held on Wednesday, but it has been put back to allow for those attending the funeral service in London.