

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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P.S.M.

Interim reply herewith which I have sent  
to Dr. Mansergh.

*[Signature]*  
11/6/82

Personal and Confidential

11 June, 1982

Dr. Martin Mansergh  
Special Adviser to the Taoiseach on Northern  
Ireland Affairs  
Office of the Taoiseach  
Government Buildings  
Upper Merrion Street  
Dublin 2

Dear Martin

In order to give a full reply to your letter of 10 June about communications in both directions between you and this Division, I feel I must await the return of the Minister, who is abroad as you know at present, because I believe he may recently have had some conversations related to this subject which I do not at present know about.

We had a word about indirect communication of documents a couple of weeks ago and I can only say that it has not at any time been the intention of those concerned in this Department to put obstacles in the way of your seeing any papers or receiving information. The issue is that of the means of communication appropriate to the situation of a Special Adviser outside the normal run of the civil service and of his relationship to "normal channels"—this issue I understand may arise in the Department of the Taoiseach itself—and I will take up the matter again as soon as possible with the Minister on his return.

Needless to say I share your views about the importance of the closest and fullest cooperation by this Division with all those who advise the Taoiseach on this area of policy.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely

*[Signature]*

D.M. Neligan



Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

W June 1982

Mr. David M. Neligan,  
Department of Foreign Affairs,  
78 St. Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2.

Dear David,

Before sending you on a confidential basis a number of reports to the Taoiseach on recent discussions I have had with Northern Public figures, you will forgive me if I seek to clarify the basis of communication with you and your Division, as I am sure you will agree that communication to be fruitful should be on a two-way basis.

When I took up my appointment as Special Advisor, the Secretary and yourself agreed to pass me a copy of all communications received by you and passed to the Department of the Taoiseach, as had been the practice with my predecessors.

Direct communications from your part were then interrupted two or three weeks ago without the least explanation, although I explained to the Taoiseach



Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

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that I did not believe you were personally responsible for this decision and that you probably regretted it. Indirect methods of transmission are slow and inefficient, and do not ensure that material gets through in time or at all. It is not acceptable to me, nor to the Taoiseach.

As cooperation flourishes best however in a situation where it is willing, I should be sorry to have the matter further pursued without first giving you the opportunity to clarify whether you intend to revert to communicating directly to me written information relating to Northern Ireland. I am sure you will feel that the good of the Service and the smooth functioning of Government in this area is best secured by the *closest and* fullest cooperation between those who advise and have direct access to the Taoiseach on Northern Ireland and the Anglo-Irish Division of the Department of Foreign affairs.

Please be assured of my personal regards.

*Martin Haughey*