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Note

Mr. Stimpson of the British Embassy telephoned me at about 6.10 p.m. on Friday, 27 July to say that the British had decided to deny Martin Galvin entry to Northern Ireland. He indicated that this was very much a Home Office decision - the implication being that the Foreign Office had taken a different view. He wished to inform me of the British decision and hoped we would keep in touch with them should Galvin land in the Republic and seek to enter NI from here. I said I would speak to some of the people concerned informing them of the British decision. I did not, however, give any indication that I would do more than that.

I spoke to Mr. Jim Kirby (D/Justice) about this on Monday morning, 30 July, informing him of the above. He subsequently rang me back and I understood by implication from what he said that he had raised the matter with his Minister who was not keen that we should become involved. The feeling was that we would have to take most of the "flack" if we refused Galvin entry to Ireland while the British would escape relatively unscathed. Mr. Kirby shared this view, noting especially that the Foreign Office had not seemed to share the Home Office view that Galvin should be excluded from NI. The main difficulty which presented itself to our side was our agreement with the British that the Republic should not be used as a back door for entry into Northern Ireland or mainland Britain. In any event it is possible that Galvin could on the basis of parentage claim an Irish passport and be perfectly free to come here. This question is being checked out with the Consulate in New York.

Further Note:

With regard to the attached note handed to Mr. O'Donovan on 1/8/84. I spoke to Mr. Lillis and we agreed I should contact Mr. Stimpson telling him that we could under no circumstances agree to any statement referring to us, being issued by the British.

I told Stimpson this saying in addition that not only could we not agree but we would take a very dim view if they were to issue such a statement. We did not feel it should have been made in the first place, especially as Galvin may very well be entitled to

hold an Irish passport. I said it would be best all round if he were to remove his copy of Holt's Note from the Embassy's file and that as far as I was concerned I had never received it. He agreed with this (whether he will do it or not is another matter).

I understand from Stimpson that this request emanates from the NIO and from Mr. Angel in particular. Stimpson said he had deliberately sent the request via Holt so as to play it down a bit.

He stated he would inform the NIO that we would not agree to a statement being issued.

In further conversation I pointed out that there are established channels for operational matters, that the NIO were aware of these and if they had a problem they knew how to use these channels. He fully accepted this.

Stimpson clearly is out of sympathy with the request and believes that in the absence of General D. Clark of the Foreign Office, Angel has been able to overrule any objection which David Barry may have made to this request.

I subsequently informed Billy Byrne D/Justice of my conversation with Stimpson. He confirmed to me that Mr. Kirby had spoken to their Minister. Mr. Byrne will inform their Minister of these latest developments.


B. Davenport
1 August 1984

Mr Stimson spoke to Mr Davenport on the evening of 27 July to convey the news that British Ministers had decided to deny Mr Galvin of NORAIL entry into the UK, and to seek the cooperation of the Irish authorities in the event that Mr Galvin sought to enter the UK via the Republic.

The British authorities now understand that Mr Galvin is indeed likely to pursue this course, probably arriving in the Republic from the United States within the next few days. In order to satisfy opinion in Northern Ireland, we would welcome the agreement of the Irish authorities to our stating publicly in due course that their cooperation has been sought and freely given in order to try to ensure that Mr Galvin does not clandestinely enter the UK via the Republic (an eventuality which would invite criticism of both HMG and the Government of the Republic of Ireland).

The British authorities hope the Irish authorities will let them know if they have any indications of where Mr Galvin is in practice likely to seek to cross the border. This might best be done on Garda/RUC channels.

No 6 handed in by Mr Hall of the British Embassy to Mr Donovan Tidy.

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118/84.