

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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*Met the Embassy  
S 19235*

*H. Howe  
18/12*

*Mr Hugley 2/1  
Bond 2.85*

Meeting with British Ambassador,  
10 December 1984

1. I raised with the British Ambassador the shooting incident at the hospital in Derry which I said was seen by responsible people of the nationalist community as a clear case of "shoot to kill". The Ambassador had no information on the incident other than that which had appeared in the newspapers. I put it to him that it would be impossible for us to be seen to be involved in a "consultative" role in some joint arrangement for security whereby we would suffer all the odium arising from such an incident without being seen to have the power to do anything about it.

2. I drew the attention of the Ambassador to the report in the Daily Star, dated 7 December 1984, which contained what purported to be briefing by security sources in London about "shoot to kill" in Northern Ireland arising from the killing in Derry on 6 December and which strongly suggested that there now was a "shoot to kill" policy ordered by the Prime Minister and her Ministers. The Ambassador said that there was no such policy and that the British were ready to deny the story. I also drew his attention to the outrageous suggestion in the story that the Taoiseach had given private backing for a "shoot to kill" policy. (Note: Later in the day I provided the Ambassador with a copy of a statement issued by the GIS on behalf of the Taoiseach - copy attached.)

3. I reminded the Ambassador that we had asked for the text - or if there was no text available an account of - the remarks attributed to Sir Jack Hermon at a public meeting in London some days previously when he had spoken about Garda/RUC cooperation. The press report had been in one respect unacceptable to us. I made the comment that we found it very strange that a police chief should operate

in such a political way but that moreover we felt entitled to be consulted intergovernmentally about any remarks made by the Chief Constable about our police. The Ambassador said the Embassy were seeking to get an account of what the Chief Constable had said although he understood there was no text.

M.J. Lillis

11 December 1984

c.c. "Box"  
Mr Nally  
Mr Ward