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AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

Note: This is your original sensitive report. 17 lines
me plus there is an
element of "plámás" or Havers
part. [initials]

17 Grosvenor Place
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SECRET - BY COURIER SERVICE

cc Taoiseach
Tánaiste
Minister
M/J Justice
A-S

Secretary
Mr. Daly
Mr. Ward
Mr. [unclear]

10 May 1985

Dear Assistant Secretary

A conversation with Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General

We were guests at a literary lunch hosted by Lord Gowrie in the House of Lords. Havers mentioned his meeting with our Attorney General earlier this week and said he was impressed by John Rogers: he had considered Peter Sutherland to be an exceptional character in every regard; Sutherland had been his best friend in the Republic, and he had been anxious that the succession should not result in any break in continuity. He felt that our A.G. is very much on track, and he is sure that they will be able to work well together.

He said that they have an extraordinary respect for the Taoiseach in every respect, and find him not so much an ally as a leader in the fight against the IRA. I said I hoped that the Taoiseach's basic message, that the need for robust action in the security field must be paralleled by concrete moves toward new political structures, would not be lost by the British Government. He said no, that he personally is committed to progress. He went on immediately, however, to say that we had perhaps better forget about a cross-border courts system. He said that Lowry is far too political to occupy the post he does and that he, Havers, takes the view that, if necessary, the Government should fight this issue in the House of Lords and force it through. But, he said, the fuss that all that would create would in turn create such enormous further difficulties. Lowry, he said, is a straight Unionist and he is playing a political card game, knowing that he has some aces, and knowing that the Government knows he has some aces.

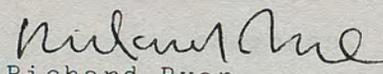
He said that they had difficulty with Lowry before, at the time of McGlinchey's extradition. When things looked bad for the prosecution and it looked as though they might not convict, Lowry took on Havers directly and said that he would refuse to extradite McGlinchey back to the Republic. Havers said that they were appalled at the implications for Anglo-Irish cooperation of such a position, but that Lowry was adamant. Havers had reiterated the bottom line on extradition, that McGlinchey could not possibly have been tried for anything other than the basis of the extradition order, but that this cut no ice. Havers raised his eyes to heaven at the grateful thought of the successful conviction of McGlinchey.

He hopes that the Hyde Park extradition procedure will succeed (if the target can be caught). He worries that the soldiers concerned were only in ceremonial (dress) uniform and were not carrying weapons other than swords. He wondered whether those who tried to kill him and his wife, or the Brighton bombers, if caught, could be extradited if found in the Republic.

He said he is utterly appreciative of all efforts on our side. He expressed the hope that Chief Justice Finlay will prove to be as "robust" as Chief Justice O'Higgins was previously.

Finally, he said that, given the present state of Anglo-Irish talks, they are fully alert here to the possibility that the IRA may try something spectacular in the coming weeks and months. He said he assumed that we are in a similar state of alertness.

Yours sincerely


Richard Ryan
Counsellor