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**Title:** Copy letter from P Colwell, Department of Justice, to HJ McCann, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, regarding the spiking of border roads by British troops.

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Freagraí chun:-

AN RÚNAÍ

(Replies to:-

SECRETARY)

Luadh an uimhir seo leanas,

le do thoil .....

(Please quote the following

number S. 37/68)

Telephone 87571 60311

ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT,  
(Department of Justice),72/76 Faiche Stiabhna.  
~~SRÁIN MHOIRNEAN UACHT.~~  
~~(RÉP. MÁR. 26/68)~~BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.  
(Dublin, 2.)

CONFIDENTIAL

An Rúnaí,  
An Roinn Gnothaí Eachtracha.

I am directed by the Minister for Justice to refer to previous correspondence regarding Border incidents and to the spiking by British troops of certain roads in Border areas.

Enclosed for your information are lists of "spiked" roads in the Six Counties in areas adjoining the Border. In the case of the spiked road near Courtbane, Hackballscross, Dundalk from which the spikes had been removed several times, the British Army replaced the barrier last night.

It has been reported to the Garda Síochána that British Army patrols are crossing the Border at regular intervals into Co. Donegal at Drumbane, Castlefin from Clady, Co. Tyrone. These Patrols have been reported in the 26 Counties at 9.30 p.m. on 26th September, 4 p.m. on 27th September, 9.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. on 28th September. On 27th September a British Army patrol stopped at Doonyloob Church and when told by Father O'Kane that they were in the 26 Counties, the soldiers jeered him as they drove off. On Sunday 4th October, a patrol entered from the 6 Counties at Kilclean Customs Post and drove through the 26 Counties to Clady (distance 4 miles). On the same day a patrol was seen crossing Clady Bridge and travelling for about one mile towards Lifford on the main Castlefin to Lifford road. They then turned back to Clady and from there again crossed the Border at Drumbane and on to Doonyloob. Local people in the area resent these incursions and feel that the British troops are trying to provoke an incident so that they can "spike" the road.

*M. J. O'Sullivan*  
8 October, 1970.