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Title: Copy letter from Donal O’Sullivan, Ambassador of Ireland to Great Britain, to HJ McCann, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, reporting a telephone conversation with Stewart Crawford, Deputy Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on British Army activities on Northern Ireland and Irish Republican Army border activity.

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Personal and Confidential

November 8th 1972

Dear Secretary

I gave you on the telephone late yesterday afternoon the gist of the conversation I had had earlier with Sir Stewart Crawford following the call I had made on him at his request. His reason for wanting to see me was to hand to me his reply to my Note of the 3rd October about claims for compensation arising from cratering operations along the border.

Sir Stewart said he regretted that he found himself unable to give me a more positive response and went on to say that the final paragraph of his Note is not altogether negative. As he understood the position there is no provision in the Northern Ireland Special Powers Act for compensation in respect of damage of the nature we had mentioned. However, it is open to individuals who feel that they have justified ^{able} claims, to seek redress in Northern courts under legislation other than the Special Powers Act.

I told Sir Stewart that I found this response quite disappointing and I was sure that this would also be the view of my Government. There was, I told him, another aspect of his reply which I found somewhat irritating. In the second and third paragraphs, there was a repetition of the continued criticism from this side that we are not doing as much as we might be expected in the matter of

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but on
signature
answer -
we are
considering
a rebuttal
H.C.

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dealing with violence. I could tell him that this attitude on their part was resulting in frayed tempers in Government circles in Dublin.

I went on to say that it is hardly good enough for them to expect us to play it cool and to get Mr. Whitelaw off the hook while they themselves keep up a barrage of unsupportable allegations against us. Here I recalled a rather heated telephone conversation which I recently had with Mr. Kelvin White of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about written replies to Parliamentary Questions on the North which had been given by Mr. Anthony Royle. As I told Mr. White on that occasion these replies had struck me as quite abrasive and as Sir Stewart was aware, there had been a public reaction to one of them by the Minister for Justice.

Sir Stewart said he had heard of my conversation with Mr. White and he was sorry that we were upset by the tone of these replies. However, until there is absolute ^{ic} convention that we are doing our best in relation to violence, Parliamentary Questions will continue to come up and they will have to be answered. Sir Stewart's main complaint was that we could be doing more in relation to border incidents. There are certain points along the border where our security activity is effective but, at the same time, there are known areas in which we do not appear to be as active as we might be. He accepted that there are difficulties at our end and agreed that our performance is improving but it is essential, now that the path to peace is emerging, ^{that} there should be ever closer cooperation between North and South in putting an end to violence.

Sir Stewart gave very warm praise to the Minister for Justice for his efforts and particularly for his recent speech in the U.S.A. The very definite feeling, however, at this

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end is that, while the Minister for Justice clearly wants to do the right thing, his wishes are not being conveyed sufficiently far down the line.

Sir Stewart also paid a very warm tribute to the Taoiseach for his recent speeches and particularly for his reaction to the Green Paper. The line which the Taoiseach has been taking in his public pronouncements is warmly welcomed and is particularly helpful at the present juncture.

When I referred again to the unsatisfactory nature of the reply he had handed to me his reaction was "At least you have got a reply" and he continued that this is something they themselves find hard to get from us when they make complaints about border incidents and about the extradition of persons required in connection with criminal offences. They have, he said, brought to our notice recently sixteen cases in which they have asked for criminal extradition. Their approach seems to have fallen on deaf ears. He could give me no details of these cases but I said I would mention the matter to Dublin. It would, I said, be a matter for our courts to decide whether a case for extradition existed in these instances.

At the end of our conversation Sir Stewart repeated his regrets at our annoyance at their continuing belly^haching. He said he would see if there was anything they could do here about this and again added that he hoped we could see our way to do more about the IRA. The new legislation promised by the Minister for Justice was an encouraging sign and they very much hoped that this legislation could be introduced quickly.

Yours sincerely
DONAL O'SULLIVAN

Ambassador

Hugh J McCann Esq
Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs