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**Title:** Statement by Aer Lingus regarding the repatriation of the remains of Irish Republican Army member James McDade, who was killed in a premature explosion while planting a bomb at Coventry, England, on 14 November 1974.

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*Ample - Irish  
yesterday with E. Nolan.*



- 1/ Mr O'Brien
- 2/ Miss Guinness
- 3/ Miss Kawarugh

*Is a please*

*Bleasant  
29/11/65*

*please p.a. on 11/65 for immediate release*

The following statement regarding the removal of the remains of Mr James McDaid from Birmingham was issued today

(November 22) by Aer Lingus:

The Birmingham-Dublin flight, EI 271, yesterday (November 21) due to leave at 1850 (and arrive Dublin 1940), was delayed due to an intensive security check at Birmingham. At about 1930 the captain of EI 271 rang Operations Control at Dublin to say he had been requested by British Airways station management at Birmingham to accept the remains of Mr McDaid for shipment to Dublin. He had been advised by British Airways that the Birmingham police were pressing that Aer Lingus should accede to the British Airways request. An official statement issued in Birmingham last evening (November 21) by British Airways confirms that it was British Airways who made the request to Aer Lingus.

Aer Lingus have no staff at Birmingham Airport and their business is handled there by British Airways. Further, the Irish carrier does not operate Birmingham-Belfast services. British Airways had already loaded the remains on to their flight for Belfast, due to depart at 1830, but were then informed that ground staff at Belfast had notified their refusal to handle the flight if the remains were on board. Our captain was told that British Airways had been instructed by the Birmingham police to do all possible to get the remains away from Birmingham Airport.

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It was agreed by the Aer Lingus Operations Duty Officer at Dublin Airport to accept the remains for shipment to Dublin, and also to accept a party of relatives and friends who wished to accompany the remains. This decision was made at 20.00 hours.

The transfer from the British Airways flight to EI 271 was effected by British Airways staff, who had consigned the remains to an undertaker with an address on the Springfield Road, Belfast.

Further security checks, including a visit to EI 271 by British Special Branch police, delayed our flight until 21.00. It arrived in Dublin at 21.50. The remains were handled at Dublin in the normal way, and were delivered from the Cargo terminal to the mortuary - a special small room within the terminal - for collection.

At 14.15 hours today (November 22) the remains were removed from the mortuary room of the Cargo terminal, and immediately left the airport. End.

Press Office  
Aer Lingus  
Dublin Airport

22 November 1974

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