

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



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1. Various powerful elements within the Irish American community will present obvious risks and dangers to visiting dignitaries from Ireland. While pretending to contribute in a positive manner to the country's well-being and individuality, they will seek to distort and manipulate for their own purposes every remark and statement made by the Taoiseach and Ministers. The two principle groups who will engage in this activity are the Irish Northern Aid Committee and the Irish National Caucus - both of whom have associations with and attachments to the Provisional IRA movement in Ireland. The Taoiseach's Ard Fheis statement and his Dail replies of 20 February are attached for ease of reference.
2. Earlier this year the Government in considering the Northern Ireland question, decided that Ministers reviewing St. Patrick's Day parades should leave the reviewing platform if bodies supporting the IRA participated. It is likely that Noraid and Caucus groups will participate in numerous parades in the United States.
3. It is also likely that these groups or their sympathisers will allege that the Ambassador Mr. Sean Donlon and other members of the Embassy and Consulates have "harassed and slandered" the Caucus and have "intimidated" the members of the Biaggi ad hoc Committee on Irish Affairs. The Taoiseach in rejecting these criticisms said in Dublin on 20 December that the Government's views on Northern policy would continue to be put forward in the United States by their officially accredited representative in that country. Any claim by anyone else to speak for the Government should not be taken seriously. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has said that the Government has the full confidence of the Ambassador in Washington and his staff and that they were satisfied that the diplomatic staff had behaved properly at all times in carrying out the policy of the Government and the instructions given to them.

Raphael V. Siev

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