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<b>Reference Code:</b>	2017/4/78
<b>Creation Dates:</b>	14 June 1985
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	1 pages
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs
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IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

17 Grosvenor Place

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14th June 1985

Israel and Northern Ireland

Dear Assistant Secretary

It might perhaps be of some interest to report on two points mentioned to me privately by the Israeli Ambassador when I met him at a function recently.

He said that Rev. Ian Paisley had been in touch with him "to obtain arms" (sic). I expressed surprise at this since I thought it unlikely that Paisley would leave himself open on something like this. The Ambassador said that the request related to "border protection". I said I presumed that the emphasis was on surveillance equipment rather than on arms but the Ambassador did not elaborate further on the detail of the request. He said that he had replied to Paisley that these things could be dealt with only between Governments.

(I would assume that what happened is that Paisley may have written to the Ambassador to seek a meeting in regard to "border protection". The Ambassador possibly interpreted this general phrase as referring to weapons rather than technology).

The Ambassador also told me that he had had a request from the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly asking that President Herzog of Israel go to address the Assembly. We both thought it mildly amusing that Kilfeddar had latched on to a visit by President Herzog to the South as an occasion to make this request (Herzog is not visiting Britain). The Ambassador said that he had replied emphasising how busy the President was and saying that it would not be possible to fit in the visit requested.

Yours sincerely

Noel Dorr  
Ambassador

Mr Michael Lillis  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin 2

c.c. Mr P McKernan, Assistant Secretary

*PS This should have gone to you in last Friday's bag but was held through an oversight*

*MD 21/6*

*cc'd Commdr Tom Reahy D/Def.  
Ms. Ryan D/Justice*