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Reference Code:	98/6/495
Title:	Correspondence between Peter Berry, Secretary, Department of Justice, and N.S. Ó Nualláin, Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach regarding proposed visit of HMS Lofoten to Cork and threats made to same
Creation Date(s):	September 1965
Level of description:	Item
Extent and medium:	3 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions:	Open
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Taoiseach,

Please see in connexion
with your inquiry of yesterday.
Re A/, I take it that such
a step is not contemplated.

Y.S. 100:
22.9.65.

ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT
(Department of Justice)
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
(Dublin)

22 September, 1965

Dear O'Nualláin,

I have your note of ^{yesterday's} today's date (S16571 H)

I had seen the item in the Manchester Guardian and, independently of that, was aware of the warning notice which had been served, by post, on the Cork Harbour Commissioners and, by hand, on our local daily newspapers on Monday evening which, acting responsibly, did not publish it.

The Garda officers in Cork, take the warning seriously as, on 17th September, Gerald McCarthy, the local O/C of the I.R.A. made a public speech on the same lines. McCarthy is an utterly irresponsible kind of individual who is liable to act on his own initiative.

The Gardaí are taking every possible precaution.

I presume that it is not contemplated that External Affairs might suggest to the U.K. representative that visits of this kind are not opportune. What prompts me to mention this is that, when a British Naval vessel was fired on at Waterford on September 10th, McCann asked me for details and mentioned that the Minister for External Affairs deprecated visits of British naval vessels to our ports for recruiting purposes. The Waterford incident was the work of irresponsibles, too, who were acting on their own initiative: the three men involved are in prison awaiting trial.

A Garda report is on its way to me and I shall let you have a copy as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

N.S. Ó Nualláin, Uas.,
Rúnaí,
Roinn an Taoisigh,
Tithe an Rialtais,
Baile Átha Cliath, 2.

*Seemingly
I think these visits
by British naval
vessels are well to
be encouraged, and
no request is
for more. I would
think that such visits
should be made
on
22.9*

S.16571 H.

21 Meán Fómhair, 1965.

Dear Berry,

With reference to the attached extract from the front page of today's issue of The Guardian, the Taoiseach would like to know what importance your Department attach to the report and if you consider that any precautionary steps should be taken in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

N. S. Ónualláin

Peter Berry, Esq.,
Secretary,
Department of Justice. (2)

Extract from
The Guardian, 21/9/65.

IRISH THREAT OF ATTACK ON WARSHIP

By our Correspondent

An organisation describing itself as the "Irish Volunteers" has said that if the proposed courtesy visit to Cork of the Royal Navy's helicopter support ship Lofoten takes place, it will launch an attack on the vessel. The Lofoten (2,140 tons) is due to visit Cork from October 12 to 17.

In a statement issued in Dublin yesterday the group said:

"We warn all concerned - those who have invited the visit, the captain, officers, and men in this ship, the forces who may try to protect her while she is in Cork, and finally any civilians who may be foolishly ill-advised to visit her in Cork - that if the Lofoten sails into Cork it will be no fault of ours if, before she sails again, they are not very sorry that she ever sailed in. Finally, we warn them that they alone shall be judged responsible for any casualty or any damage to property which may occur as a result of their ignoring this warning."

On Friday, September 10, shots were fired at a naval fast patrol boat leaving Waterford harbour. Three men were later arrested and charged. In November shots were fired on another British warship while it was leaving Cork harbour.