

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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14 April 1976

Telephone 617631

Mr. Liam Cosgrave T.D.,  
Taoiseach,  
Government Buildings,  
Merrion St.,  
Dublin.

21 APR 1976

Dear Taoiseach,

I wrote to you on March 18, 1976 re Loyalist violence and the desperate situation of Catholics in N.Ireland. I pointed to the absence of references to this aspect of the situation in your speeches and those of your Ministers.

On April 7, 1976 I received a reply to my letter from your Private Secretary, Mr. Murray. In his letter he states:

"The Taoiseach is very much aware that there are people engaged in violent activity on both sides of the community in N.Ireland and he has, on numerous occasions, condemned violence no matter what source it came from."

In support of this assertion he referred me to your speech before both Houses of the U.S. Congress on March 17, 1976.

I have read that speech very carefully and I find that, far from giving support to the statement of your Private Secretary, it confirms what I said in my first letter. Your concentration on, one could almost call it an obsession with, violence from Republican sources to the exclusion of concern about Loyalist violence is revealed in the following sentence in your Washington speech:

"These men of violence are not represented by a single democratically elected member of our Parliament nor have they been represented by any member of any recently elected Parliamentary Body in Northern Ireland"

How could you have made such a statement in the light of the following facts, unless you had only violence from one quarter in focus?

1. Almost all the members of the UUUC elected at the most recent elections to Stormont and Westminster are members of the Orange Order. (To my knowledge, Ian Paisley is the only exception). The Order has a paramilitary wing called the Orange Volunteers, some of whose members have been involved in violent crimes of a sectarian nature. Are they not represented by the 44 Convention Members and 9 Westminster M.P.s?
2. Mr. William Craig's association with and support for the



Protestant paramilitary organisations, especially the UDA, is notorious. Despite this, and despite the sectarian assassinations which began with his early "blood will flow" speeches, he was elected to Stormont and Westminster with thumping majorities. Does he not represent men of violence?

3. Mr. Glenn Barr is a self-confessed member of the UDA, an organisation with hundreds of members in prison for sectarian crimes against Catholics. He was chief organiser of the UWC strike in May 1974. During that strike his followers assassinated the two Catholic Byrne brothers in their country pub at Tannaghmore Co. Antrim. Did he not represent the violent men of the UDA when elected?

Catholics in N. Ireland feel positively ill when they see these two representatives of the perpetrators of sectarian violence feted in Dublin by Government Ministers.

4. The association of Rev. Ian Paisley with the rise of the modern UVF in 1966, marking the beginning of our present phase of violence, is amply documented in Mr. Boulton's book "U.V.F." Mr. Paisley has never succeeded in clearing himself of the allegations in that book. Recently the organisation TARA, with which he is associated, demanded that the Catholic Church be banned. Despite his history and his present posture, Mr. Paisley was sent to Westminster by 49,000 voters in N. Antrim. Can anyone say that he does not represent men of violence?

5. Mr. Hugh Smith an acknowledged spokesman for the UVF was elected to the N.I. Assembly and the NI Convention.

6. Mr. George Green, head of the USC Association, another paramilitary organisation, was elected as Vanguard Member of the N.I. Assembly and the N.I. Convention.

7. Colonel Brush, leader of Down Orange Welfare, another paramilitary organisation, was elected to the N.I. Assembly and the N.I. Convention as Official Unionist Member for South Down.

I note that groups of Congressmen and Governors from the USA are coming to Dublin in the near future. I do hope that in the briefings which you and your Government will give them about Northern Ireland the serious omissions in your Washington address will be rectified, and that they will be put fully in the picture about Loyalist violence and the plight of Catholics.

Yours sincerely,

*Brian J. Brady*

Rev. Brian J. Brady.