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Mr. O Tuathail,

Mr. Magner of the Department of Justice told me this morning  
(1) that last Saturday the producer of RTE's Today Tonight Programme, Eugene Murray (a brother of the Attorney-General) told a Garda Detective Inspector that details of a visit to the home of Donal Kinlan S.C. in Kerry by the British Ambassador who was known to the IRA. There was consideration in Justice about what should be done about this. I understand it was decided by the Minister that Assistant Commissioner Crowley should see the Ambassador and explain the position to him.  
(2) This was done but the Ambassador indicated that he wished to go ahead and it was decided not to take the matter further. I understand that there was some Sinn Fein presence in the area  
(3) and that the laneway near Kinlan's house was picketted.

(4) I understand the Ambassador's trip to Kerry also involved some boating. Mr. Magner mentioned that this was the third occasion in the month or so the Ambassador had gone on boating trips and that this was continuing to cause a security worry to the Gardai and was also of course expensive in terms of protection.

(5) On Monday, Eugene Murray told the Gardai that he intended to go public on the matter in the Today Tonight Programme this week. He said that the IRA had got a copy of a Garda document detailing protective measures for the Ambassador's visit to Kerry and he alleged that the IRA had got this document from MI5.

Mr. Magner suggested that we might want to tell the Ambassador that it had been indicated that the matter would be raised in  
(6) its Today Tonight Programme tomorrow.

I would suggest that the Ambassador be asked to call to the Department and be informed as a courtesy that we understand there will be a reference to his visit to Kerry in the Today Tonight Programme tomorrow, that it may be alleged that a copy of a Garda document detailing protective measures for his visit had fallen into the hands of the IRA through MI5, but that we were not aware of the general context of the programme or any other matter concerning it. We had been informed by the Department of Justice that the programme would go out tomorrow night.

The occasion might be taken to indicate to the Ambassador that Garda authorities are concerned about his boating trips in regard not only to his security but to the resources required for protection on these trips.

Declan O'Donovan  
12 August, 1986.

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