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AN ROINN GNOTHAI EACHTRACHA
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

*Released
9/12 to 8/7
d.*

SECRET

2 November 1987

Mr. Des Mathews
Secretary
Department of Justice

Dear Des,

While there may be nothing in it I feel I should bring the attached report from our Embassy in London to your attention for whatever it may be worth.

The report seems to point to the possibility of links between the IRA and the ANC in Southern Africa and it mentions in particular a white Afrikaner, a member of the ANC, Mr. Marius Schoon (?) who is living in Ireland.

It may be that your Department is already aware of the information and the report and in any case it may be, as the report itself acknowledges, no more than malicious gossip. I would certainly not want to reflect unfairly on members of the Anti-Apartheid Movement here or on opponents of apartheid in South Africa. Nevertheless, at a time when there appears to be some puzzle about the type of arms aboard the Eksund, it seems right to forward to you, a report which, if well-founded, could suggest some contacts between the IRA and the Liberation Movement in Southern Africa.

It remains, as I said, that the report may be malicious but no doubt your Department will have a view on how to evaluate it.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Dorr
Secretary

AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN, LONDAIN



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STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

1/ November, 1987

ANC and Ireland

Dear Mary

I am writing to you in the absence of Sean Farrell who, I understand, is on leave this week.

In the course of a discussion yesterday with a contact in the Commonwealth Secretariat, who has responsibility for Commonwealth educational assistance programmes relating to the Southern African liberation movements I was given some rather curious information which I feel I should report to the Department. I am not certain what credence should be put on it or to the attention of whom it should be drawn but I leave that to your discretion.

My informant who is himself an Irish citizen, has contacts both with the liberation movements and with the anti-apartheid movements in Britain and Ireland. He told me that he was aware of contacts between the ANC and the IRA, although he did not specify where or when these contacts had taken place. He himself makes regular visits to ANC settlements in Africa and commented on the unexplained presence of Irishmen in such settlements. He believed it possible that they could be members of subversive organisations "on rest and relaxation".

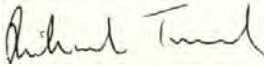
Marius Schoon
My informant went on to caution me about the activities of one ANC member in Ireland, a Mr. Marais Schoon (spelling?). Schoon is a white Afrikaner, who has married an Irish citizen, and has acquired Irish citizenship following a post-nuptial declaration (He now travels on an Irish passport). It seems that he was targetted some time ago by the South African security forces, who are particularly anxious to eliminate any Afrikaners working for the ANC. A parcel bomb sent to his home in Lobito killed his first wife and daughter but not either himself or his son. He subsequently went to Ireland where he stayed with the Asmal family in Foxrock. During this period he "nearly drank himself to death". Schoon is currently attached to TCD (in what capacity I am unsure). It is possible that he is already known to the Department.

Schoon subsequently married a member of the IAAM, Shirley McGlynn (spelling?). It seems that he maintains links with subversives and has "strong views" on Northern Ireland (including some notions about CIA involvement in Northern Ireland). His behaviour it seems, is "irrational".

Although my informant did not state directly that Schoon was promoting links between the ANC and IRA, this seemed to be implicit in what he said.

I am not sure how seriously the above should be taken (conceivably it may be no more than malicious gossip). If true, it would obviously be of concern to Anglo-Irish Division and the Department of Justice. However, as the information also has considerable relevance for our policy towards the ANC, I thought that I should write to you in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard Townsend', written over a horizontal line.

Richard Townsend
First Secretary

Miss Mary Barrington
Political Division
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin 2