



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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AN RÚNAÍOCHT ANGLA-ÉIREANNACH

BÉAL FEIRSTE

1 July 1987

Mr. Eamon O Tuathail
Assistant Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs

Dear Eamon

I enclose for your information a copy of a letter which I have sent to the Secretary of the Department of Justice in connection with an approach made to us here from the British side as a result of a letter received by the British Home Secretary from the mother of Captain Robert Nairac.

Yours sincerely



Noel Ryan

CONF: 3/1/4

ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT

BELFAST

ad
A/S O Tuathail
re: Robert Nairac

Personal & Confidential

30 June, 1987

Mr. D. Matthews,
Secretary,
Department of Justice.

Dear Des,

We have had an approach here from the British side in connection with a letter received by the British Home Secretary from the mother of Captain Robert Nairac. As you will recall, Captain Nairac was murdered by the PIRA in 1977. A copy of Mrs. Nairac's letter to the Home Secretary, which speaks for itself, is enclosed.

This is a delicate issue and, on the question of whether there would be any point in making an approach to the person in question, one which is not easy to assess. The only thing that occurs to us here is that the prison authorities, perhaps in particular the Chaplain, might be in a position to advise as to whether there would be any point to it. I'm assuming that the Garda authorities would not have any worthwhile information on the point but perhaps that should be the first line of enquiry.

I should say that the British side have asked the N.I. Prison authorities to consider a similar approach to the only other person still in custody in connection with the murder (see the enclosed brief resume of background information in connection with the case). They have also authorised the use of Mrs. Nairac's letter by our side if desired. While they are not optimistic that anything will come of the enquiries in either jurisdiction, they are anxious, on humanitarian grounds, to assist in any way they can.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Eamon O'Tuathail, Department of Foreign Affairs.

Yours sincerely,



Noel Ryan

that nothing further is known
of what happened to him and
his body has never been found.

We are now seventy-seven
and the terrible experiences we
have had affect us now more
than ever & speculation never
ceases.

Is there any authority or
person to whom we could write?
Previous letters to Secretaries of State
for N. Ireland were no help.

We have always emphasised
that we understand the difficulty

FROM MRS M. L. NAIRAC

RECEIVED BY

- 5 JUN 1987

PRIVATE SECRETARY

MASTER'S KEEP,
STANDISH COURT,
STONEHOUSE,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

TELEPHONE STONEHOUSE 2736

Mr. C. J. L.

FL.

- for advice p. 5

June 4th 1987

Dear Mr. Hand,

I am writing for your advice
as Home Secretary & mostly
because of your extensive knowledge
of Irish Affairs.

It is now ten years since
son Robert was abducted at
Forkhill, in County Antrim.
It seems to me incredible

2.

for security and I think
we have shown ourselves to
be responsible and trustworthy.

Yours faithfully

Barbara Ann Nance

NAIRAC

- 14 May 1977: Abducted from pub at Drumintee near Forkhill. Shot later that night or early following morning in Ravendales forest.
- Actual killer: Liam Patrick Townson; convicted and sentenced to life in Dublin, November 1977.
- 5 other men convicted and jailed in Northern Ireland in connection with murder (2 for the murder itself); sentence range from two years to life.
- All those jailed in Northern Ireland have now been released with exception of Gerard Patrick Feron. Latter has been given provisional release date and will probably be out within a year. He is being moved from the Maze to Belfast.