



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code: 2019/101/2226

Creator(s): Department of Foreign Affairs

Accession Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland.
May only be reproduced with
the written permission of the
Director of the National
Archives.



Telefón }
Telephone } (01) 780822

Telex 25300

Taigairt }
Reference }



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA

Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.

Dublin 2.

26 August 1987

Confidential

Mr Noel Ryan
Anglo-Irish Secretariat
Belfast

Dear Noel

I refer to your letter of 1 July and subsequent telex 141C of 10 August about the efforts being made by the family of the late Captain Nairac to obtain information about what happened to him.

We have already passed on to you the view of the Department of Justice that there is no point in talking to the remaining prisoner in Portlaoise, Townson, who is believed to have pulled the trigger but to have left the scene immediately, and who is in any event very uncommunicative.

I recently had a conversation with Fr. Denis Faul about the matter. He told me that he had received a similar enquiry from a sister of Nairac. He is in a quandary how to answer it because he believes that Nairac's body was taken to a meat processing factory (I think for animal feeds) near Ravensdale and disposed of in the machinery. He said this is now the firm local version of what happened, to the extent that various tragedies and mishaps suffered since the event by the families of those involved have been put down to divine retribution for the sacrilegious disposal of the body.

I've heard this local view before. On a visit to Clogherhead with the former Minister about four years ago, the factory was pointed out to me by a local as the place where Nairac's body had been disposed of for animal food.

This is a very ugly story and whether it is true or not, my personal feeling is that it would be preferable to spare the Nairac family the telling of it. I would suggest that you tell the other side that we do not have, and are unable to obtain, any hard information about what happened to Nairac and, at your discretion, that we are aware of local rumours to the above effect. I would imagine that the RUC on the other side, whatever about the NIO, are aware of them.

Yours sincerely

Declan O'Donovan