



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2019/31/13
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Mr. Nally 4/12/89
CONFIDENTIAL



Taoiseach to see Mr. Nally 30/11

NO 27

Telephone call from Cardinal about Ardboe shootings

The Cardinal telephoned me early this morning to say that the Parish Priest in Ardboe had informed him that there was very great concern in the locality about the killings there last night. There is a widespread view in the locality that there may have been collusion between the UDR and the gunmen. The locals, for instance, did not hear a car leave the vicinity of the crime after the shootings. This suggests to them that the gunmen may have approached the pub, which is on the shores of the lake, by boat. It is also alleged that the UDR were seen on the lake yesterday in boats and that significant numbers of them had been seen in the locality in the past few days - the implication being that they were checking out the bar with a view to last night's attack.

The Cardinal emphasised that he was not making a value judgement on these local views but that he believed that it was important that the Minister be aware of them in advance of today's Conference. I expressed appreciation for his call and said I would convey the terms of it immediately to the Minister.

Please see also the attached note from Mr. O'Connor in which he reports that the owner of the bar (Liam Ryan) had recently informed Paddy Duffy (the well known solicitor and a new member of the Board of the International Fund) that he suspected he was on a security force list which had come into Loyalist hands. Mr. Ryan had been implicated in the US in the Marita Ann affair but had only been charged with a minor offence and had been given a sentence of probation and a fine of \$2,500.

DAG.
Dermot Gallagher,
30 November, 1989.

cc: PST; PSM; AG; Mr. Nally; PSS; Mr. Mathews; Mr. Brosnan;
Counsellors A-I

Confidential

Note

I received a call this morning from Denis Haughey regarding last night's attack on the Battery Bar in Ardboe, Co. Tyrone, in which two Catholics were killed. Mr. Haughey said that one of the men killed, Liam Ryan (owner of the bar) was implicated in the Marita Ann affair (see attached). Mr Haughey said that he would be a "known sympathiser at the least".

Mr. Haughey received a call from Paddy Duffy this morning telling him that Mr. Ryan had come to him recently about a message which he had received from the RUC to go and see them. He had not done so but Mr. Ryan had told Mr. Duffy that he suspected he was on one of the security forces' list which had come into loyalist hands and was concerned for his safety.

This obviously raises new question marks about last night's attack. The media are carrying the story as an indiscriminate attack on a Catholic bar but clearly there may be more to it than that. (Denis Haughey has not conveyed this information to the media but wished us to be aware of it in the context of today's Conference meeting). From what he has pieced together from local sources, there were 15-20 people in the bar at the time. Mr. Ryan and Mr. Devlin (the other man killed - not believed to have any "involvement") were in the hallway and it is there that they were shot. The gunmen did not apparently enter the bar proper.

You will be aware of suggestions that the attack was in revenge for an incident in nearby (Protestant) Coagh in March of this year in which the IRA killed 3 local Protestants. It may be simply coincidence that last night's attackers picked Mr. Ryan's bar (Ardboe is almost exclusively Catholic, so a public house there could be presumed to contain Catholics only) or they may specifically have been seeking to target Mr. Ryan, either on the

basis that he would be fairly widely known as a Republican or possibly (Mr. Haughey emphasised that this was still in the realm of conjecture) because he was on a security forces' suspect list which had come into loyalist hands.

lsc
T. O' Connor

30 November, 1989

c. c. Mr. Gallagher
Mr. O' Donovan
Ms. Anderson
Joint Secretary

W3959



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ

CRF SEC 7.3

PA

US Court cases of Irish interest

1. Liam Ryan was arrested on 24 April 1985. Although the offence with which he was charged (filing a false statement in order to secure a driving licence) was a relatively minor one, his case is of interest because, under the name he used to secure a licence he purchased rifles which were part of a shipment intercepted by the FBI in June 1982. Four others involved in the same shipment (Gabriel Magahey, Andrew Duggan, Eamonn Meehan and Colm Meehan) are already serving sentences. The delay in arresting Ryan was due to difficulties in tracing him from the false name used to obtain the licence. The bond for his bail was secured by Michael Flannery's house, \$75,000 in cash and the signature of Martin Galvin in his own name. Liam Ryan pleaded guilty and was given a sentence of probation and a fine of 2,500 dollars.

2. Joseph Doherty was charged with the murder of a British undercover army officer but he escaped from Crumlin Road gaol in 1981. In his absence he was sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation that he serve 30 years. In June 1983 he was arrested in New York as an illegal immigrant. Britain sought his extradition but a US Federal Judge ruled in December 1984 that Doherty's case came within the political offence exemption of the US extradition treaty with Britain. Doherty has filed for political asylum but continues to be held in custody pending a review of the Sprizzo ruling.

3. William Quinn an Irish-American is wanted for the murder of a London policeman in 1975 and related charges. Following a British request for his extradition he was arrested in California in 1981 and his extradition ordered by a magistrate in 1982. However, on appeal, the Federal District Court in San Francisco held that his extradition (like that of Joseph

US arrest
linked to
Marita
Ann ?

A 35-YEAR-OLD Irishman, Liam Ryan, believed to be involved in IRA gun-running, was arrested in New York last Wednesday. Although Ryan was arrested on a relatively minor charge of buying arms under a false name, FBI agents hope to link him with the Marita Ann gun-running attempt.

Ryan, a Tyrone-born meter repair man, denied the charge of giving the false name of Richard Power on government documents required for the purchase of three rifles in 1982. The guns allegedly turned up in a cache of weapons, including surface-to-air missiles bound for the IRA, which was seized by US customs officials in 1983.

Three men, Andrew Dougan, Gabriel McGeahy, and Colm Meehan, have already been tried and convicted in the US in relation to the case.

It is believed that FBI agents who arrested Ryan at his Bronx apartment last Wednesday, hope to link him with the Marita Ann operation.

Ryan, an American citizen, had lived in New York for the past three years with his girlfriend, Ms. Helen O'Sullivan. He was planning to leave the US last Saturday. The FBI feared that Ryan would leave the country if given bail, but when Judge Christine set a supposedly prohibitive sum of 750,000 dollars, several Noraid members volunteered the unsecured bonds. The organization's publicity director, New York lawyer Mr. Martin Galvin, put up a personal bond of over 300,000 dollars.

Ryan, who is well known in the Irish community in New York, was released on bail. After the hearing at a federal district court in Brooklyn last Friday, Mr. Galvin pointed out that there was no conspiracy charge against Ryan in the case and that he would be pleading guilty.

Desk Press.
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