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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.
Dublin 2.

FAX MESSAGE

TO Embassy, London.
FOR Joe Hayes.

FROM RICHARD FALLON: Anglo-Irish Division, Dept. Foreign Affairs.
Telephone: 780822 Ext. 351. - FAX NO. 754505

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE 26.11.90.

MESSAGE

Response from Tsch's office on "Judy the African Elephant". Will be interested to know if your follow-up + if ^{further} necessary from this end (e.g. Embassy will/has contacted you).

Regards

Concluded
Joe Hayes Acting in H.

Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach

23 November, 1990.

Mr. Richard Fallon,
Anglo-Irish Section,
Department of Foreign Affairs.

Dear Richard,

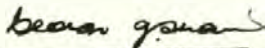
I promised to write to you regarding the correspondence from Miss Lesley Coleman to Mr. Bernard Weatherill, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons.

The position is that Miss Coleman wrote a similar letter to the Taoiseach, dated 20th September, and this letter was acknowledged on the 26th September 1990. Our office propose to take no further action in response to Miss Coleman's letter.

However, for your information I spoke to Mick Doyle and also Mr. Micheál O'Cathail who was the Secretary to Mick Doyle's Zoo Committee and I am satisfied from what they have told me, following consultations with Mr. Ron Willis the Curator of Animals at Dublin Zoo, that everything possible is being done to diagnose and treat Judy's problem.

I hope that this is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,



Private Secretary
to the Taoiseach.



Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach

23 November, 1990.

Mr. Richard Fallon,
Anglo-Irish Section,
Department of Foreign Affairs.

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I hope that this is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

Beauregard

Private Secretary
to the Taoiseach.



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

200 Check +
get onto sec.
(P)

~~FAX SHEET~~ Message.

TO Roinn An Taoiseach.

FOR Mr. George Shaw.

FROM RICHARD FALLON: Anglo-Irish Division, Dept. Foreign Affairs
Telephone: 780822 Ext. 351. - FAX NO. 754505

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE 12. 11. 20.

MESSAGE

Mr. Shaw,
please find herewith copies of corr.
from a ^{Coleman} M.D. Weatherill of London to the
Speaker of the House of Commons ^{Mr. Weatherill} about
"Judy the African Elephant" at Dublin Zoo
referred to us by Embassy London.

I would be most grateful if you could
confirm whether or not your office has
had previous dealings with ^{Coleman} M.D.
~~Weatherill~~ in this regard as claimed
in ~~last~~ letter.

Regards,

Richard Fallon.

George Shaw: Zoo Check -
anti-Zoo group + do report
Once they get in

+ try to unwelcome.
Zoo - To visit.
14.11.20.

Mr. Bernard Wetherill M.P.
The Speaker
Speaker's House
HOUSE OF COMMONS
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

4 Oakwood Court
7 Avenue Road
South Norwood
London
SE25 4EQ

20th September 1990

Dear Mr. Speaker,

First of all please allow me to apologise for writing to you again so soon but there is an important issue at stake which is causing me great concern and distress - Judy the African elephant at Dublin Zoo. I would therefore be very grateful for your kind assistance if possible.

Zoo Check, of which I am a supporter, have made many requests to Dublin Zoo for a second opinion to be given on Judy but to date all these requests have been turned down. One reason given is that they are waiting for results of tests - which have been carried out by them - before they consider outside help.

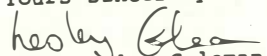
For your information I have written to the Irish Taoiseach Charles Haughey and also to Mr. Peter Wilson who is the Director of Dublin Zoo because at the time of writing Judy has collapsed four times in the last three weeks and obviously she will be suffering already not only from grazes and bruising but more importantly distress.

I wonder if it is at all possible for you to raise this matter in the House, on my behalf, with your colleagues and let me know if there is anything you can do to bring pressure on Dublin Zoo to grant the additional treatment for Judy which she desperately needs now before it is too late.

I very much look forward to hearing from you in the near future and to learning what action if any can be taken by the House.

Thank you once again for making the time available to read my letters and may I finish by saying again - "Please do all you can to help Judy".

Yours sincerely


Miss Lesley Coleman

AMBASAID NA hÉIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

17, GROSVENOR PLACE,
SW1X 7HR

Telephone: 01-235 2171

TELEX: 916104

6. November 1990

Mr Richard Fallon
Anglo-Irish Section
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin 2

Dear Richard

I enclose correspondence received from the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr Bernard Weatherill MP. The Ambassador has asked us to follow up and seek suitable material for reply.

I would be grateful if you could pass this on to the appropriate people. I see that Ms Coleman wrote to the Taoiseach's Department - they may have material for reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Shane'.

Shane O'Neill
Third Secretary

[Mr. Garland:] after its completion. It is very important that it be made public as there is a great deal of public disquiet about conditions in Dublin Zoo.

The zoo management is very much aware of the public concern about the state of the zoo, as are the Government. Many people who have no axe to grind consider the place unsuitable for the housing of any animals, let alone wild ones. Many would prefer to see the institution closed down rather than have wild animals kept in such conditions, far removed from their natural climate, bereft of any of the normal conditions in which the animals would exist in the wild.

Take, for example, Judy the elephant, who arrived in Dublin in 1980. Judy was then five years old and was bought from Chipperfield's which is against international guidelines. Judy was a wild-caught elephant and in her early years she appeared to be reasonably healthy and even travelled to Scotland to take part in a film.

In 1985, Judy started to develop symptoms of malaise and she has fallen on a number of occasions. As early as 1986 it was suggested that David Taylor, the international zoo vet, should see Judy, but this was ruled out because of lack of finance. Eventually, a couple of weeks ago, finance was found to bring zoo vet Andrew Greenwood over from London. His diagnosis has not been made public. Dublin Zoo say that Judy shows no change in her condition but I heard otherwise that she is deteriorating.

Elephants should live for 55 to 60 years but tend to live much shorter periods in captivity; 34 years seems to be the average. Judy, however, is only 15 years old and is very seriously ill. The conditions in which she is kept are extremely poor,— wet concrete floors and cramped conditions. Judy is also suffering from arthritis. Debbie, her companion, purchased at the same time from the same source had to be put down last year. Dublin Zoo's record with elephants is absolutely deplorable and they must pull out of keeping them ever again.

The Director of the zoo, Mr. Peter

Wilson, maintains that enormous maintenance costs have been required to improve the environment for the animals in the antiquated Victorian infrastructure. I have seen very little sign of any improvements in the environment for the animals. All the large animals are imprisoned in small enclosures which have nothing to interest and occupy them. The polar bears, for instance, exist in a cramped environment, their water hole is usually very dirty and they display typical symptoms of stereotyped behaviour. On top of this their breeding record has been spectacularly unsuccessful and the question as to why breeding is attempted at all, when a proper cubbing don does not exist, has never been answered properly by the zoo management.

These are just some of the examples of the conditions in Dublin Zoo. Now that we are coming into the winter it is very hard to imagine animals living in these conditions, with sub-zero temperatures. It is particularly regrettable that the public are not more aware of the problems of Dublin Zoo. People are now questioning whether it is morally justified to keep animals behind bars. It can be argued that zoos are just animal prisons. Finally, I call on the Minister to publish this report which has been lying on her desk for months. I challenge her today to confirm that no further public money will be advanced until this report is published.

Minister for Education (Mrs. O'Rourke): Let me say clearly, for the record of this House, that I am responsible for a number of matters but for Judy the elephant, I am not responsible.

Mr. Garland: Who is?

Mrs. O'Rourke: Would you allow me to continue please? You have had your say, and I want to have mine. The zoo is a private institution. It is owned by the Royal Zoological Society and, consequently, does not come within my statutory remit. The reason I am responding today is that on two previous occasions lottery funding by way of

, maintains that enormous maintenance costs have been required to keep the environment for the animals antiquated Victorian infrastructure. I have seen very little sign of improvements in the environment for animals. All the large animals are caged in small enclosures which do nothing to interest and occupy them. The polar bears, for instance, exist in a cramped environment, their water is usually very dirty and they display symptoms of stereotyped behaviour. On top of this their breeding record is spectacularly unsuccessful and a question as to why breeding is not taking place at all, when a proper cubbing programme does not exist, has never been addressed properly by the zoo management.

These are just some of the examples of conditions in Dublin Zoo. Now that we are coming into the winter it is very difficult to imagine animals living in these conditions, with sub-zero temperatures, particularly regrettable that that the public are not more aware of the problems of Dublin Zoo. People are now questioning whether it is morally justified to keep animals behind bars. It can be said that zoos are just animal prisons. I call on the Minister to publish a report which has been lying on her desk for months. I challenge her today to ensure that no further public money will be expended until this report is published.

Minister for Education (Mrs. O'Rourke): Let me say clearly, for the record of this House, that I am responsible for a number of matters but for Judy's elephant, I am not responsible.

Mr. Garland: Who is?

Mrs. O'Rourke: Would you allow me to continue please? You have had your say and I want to have mine. The zoo is a State institution. It is owned by the Zoological Society and, consequently, does not come within my remit. The reason I am speaking today is that on two previous occasions lottery funding by way of

special subscription was channelled through the Department of Education, on the basis of attendance by young people at the zoo. Not at any time before then did the zoo receive State funding.

Yesterday, the Government commissioned a report on the zoo. A committee was set up which issued their findings. Those findings are now the subject of a discussion paper which will go to Cabinet. On that basis the Cabinet will decide its recommendations, if any, bearing in mind that this is a private institution and, as the Deputy admitted this evening, that there are vast implications as to whether there should be a zoo at all — that was a clear point made by the Deputy. That remains for the people to decide.

The zoo does not come under State remit but the Government, because of the public interest in the subject, decided to set up a small committee, an eminent group. That committee issued a report which will be the subject of a Government discussion. Therefore, I am precluded from making any announcement or issuing any report until the opportunity of that report arises. Meanwhile, the zoo authorities, in the person of the committee, have visited my Department regarding immediate financial concerns — by immediate I mean within the next few weeks. Productive conversations have been held between my Department, the management and other Government Departments, the outcome of which has not yet been decided. Therefore, I am precluded from saying anything in that regard.

The Deputy has challenged me to say that no more money will be given to the zoo until the report is published. When we have concluded the discussions I have referred to I will be reporting to the Government. I do not have overall responsibility for the zoo and I cannot decide what the zoo will do with any particular animal within its remit.

Mr. Garland: The Minister has not answered me in regard to the public money. Will more public money be made available to this institution?

Mrs. O'Rourke: I have answered the Deputy. I do not have responsibility for public money.

Mr. Garland: Who has responsibility for public money?

Mrs. O'Rourke: It is a privately run institution.

An Ceann Comhairle: The Minister's reply ended the discussion.

Foreign Affairs Matter.

An Ceann Comhairle: We now proceed to hear a one minute statement from Deputy Tom Kitt on a matter appropriate to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. T. Kitt: The case of the Birmingham Six must be raised, if possible, every single day in the Dáil between now and Christmas. The message from the Birmingham Six is a simple one: "Get us out before Christmas." I urge the Minister for Foreign Affairs and indeed the Taoiseach to approach the new British Prime Minister, whoever that may be, immediately on his election and ask him to involve himself urgently and directly in this case. He should ensure that the police report and the legal preparation for the planned appeal are completed before Christmas.

The police team have been working on this case since March and it is now feared that the case will push on past Christmas. This would mean six innocent men spending their 17th Christmas in prison, away from their families. The evidence is there to release them now. It is imperative that they should not be allowed to spend any more time behind bars and away from their families. Let us not underestimate the major psychological consequences of allowing this to happen.

Mr. Garland: Hear, hear.

Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs (Mr. Callery): I thank

"Judge the African elephant!" P/A London

Nov 90

exists in the General Hospital in and for patients in County Kerry. situation, as I understand it, is that there were ten physiotherapists in the General Hospital in Tralee. At present there are 7.5 persons, which can be such, comprising six full-time and three persons job-sharing. Of these 7.5 persons, two are on maternity leave, one is on compassionate leave and one on sick leave. That leaves us with a complement of 3.5 persons available to provide physiotherapy for the General Hospital in Tralee.

The Health Board, in defending this position, say they have no choice but to temporarily discontinue the outpatient service. Using the expression "temporarily discontinue" is stretching the meaning of language because this is at the third occasion in the last six years that the service has been discontinued and "temporarily" will now mean "permanently" because the facilities for outpatients' physiotherapy have been closed more often than in the past 12 months.

One of the consequences of this are obvious. The doctors and consultants who treat patients are insisting that physiotherapy is required to bring patients back to health. In some cases it is costing the Department of Health more money to provide the treatment which is now prescribed by the medical personnel.

In one case a patient, a teenage girl, had to spend four weeks in a hospital because he was not able to avail of outpatient service in Tralee, thus costing the health board many more hundreds of pounds which would not have been if outpatient service was available in Tralee.

This week the same suggestion has been made by the medical personnel that if a person seeking physiotherapy in the outpatient service will have to go to hospital in Dublin for four weeks to receive inpatient physiotherapy in Dublin then outpatient physiotherapy services in Tralee could suffice. Another person this week has informed me he has travelled to Dublin for three days per week thus incurring costs on the health

board and on himself and his family. I have heard of a number of cases during the summer. A 70 year old patient who suffered a stroke was striving valiantly to attend the wedding of his only daughter when the service was stopped. These are the human, tragic cases, unfortunately, but they are becoming the norm when it comes to the requirements of the population in Kerry. A patient suffering from multiple sclerosis who broke a limb recently was told by his doctor he will be confined to a chair unless he gets adequate physiotherapy services as a matter of urgency.

I would say to the Minister of State that the situation, as it stands is in crisis. There are 200 people waiting for physiotherapy services in the county of Kerry and as things stand at the moment the outlook is indeed very bleak. They need the service, and I would ask the Minister for Health to take a personal interest in providing adequate staffing and resources so that a basic service can be offered. If we cannot give the absolute, 100 per cent Rolls Royce service that people are crying out for, let us at least try to meet them halfway and give them some semblance of an outpatient physiotherapy service in the General Hospital in Tralee.

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Mr. N. Treacy): I am pleased to have an opportunity to speak on this matter for the second time this week. As I pointed out to Deputy Deenihan on Tuesday last, 20 November, in reply to his statement that night, the provision of physiotherapy services at Tralee General Hospital is a matter, in the first instance, for the Southern Health Board.

Tralee General Hospital has a staff complement of eight physiotherapists, there were ten posts there in 1986.

One of the physiotherapists at that time opted to transfer, within the Southern Health Board system, to Killarney and operate full time there, so the staff complement serving the area has not been reduced except for one person who opted for voluntary redundancy.

There are at present six full time staff and three other staff who are job sharing

providing physiotherapy services. Of these staff two members are on maternity leave, one member is on compassionate leave and another member is on sick leave. Due to this unavoidable combination of circumstances, caused by the unavoidable temporary absence of these four staff, it has been necessary to temporarily suspend the physiotherapy outpatient service. The Southern Health Board are making every effort to replace the staff on leave on a daily basis but have not been successful as yet due to the difficulty in recruiting replacement staff for short periods. However, arrangements for an emergency service have been made.

The Southern Health Board are reviewing the situation with a view to restoring the service as quickly as possible and the inpatient service is not affected. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise once more that the difficulties here are not due to any financial restriction. I am fully aware of the personal interests of both Deputies Spring and Deenihan on this matter. I have spoken personally on the matter with Deputy Deenihan and he agrees that there is a major problem in recruiting physiotherapists at the moment. I am sure Deputy Spring is fully aware of it also. I can assure Deputy Spring and the House that the Southern Health Board are making every effort to restore maximum service immediately.

Education and Foreign Affairs Matters.

An Ceann Comhairle: Deputy Garland gave me notice of his intention to raise on the Adjournment the report compiled on Dublin Zoo, its publication and its recommendations. The Deputy has five minutes to represent his case and the Minister five minutes to reply.

Mr. Garland: I wish to thank you, a Cheann Comhairle, for giving me the opportunity of bringing up this very important matter. This report, which was prepared by the public inquiry board, has still not been published many months



Mr Speaker

Mr J Hayes
B.
17/10.

SPEAKER'S HOUSE
WESTMINSTER
SWIA OAA

16th October 1990.

Dear Private Secretary,

Ambassador
please see
E 17/10/90

I enclose a letter from one of Mr. Weatherill's constituents, Miss Lesley Coleman, of 4 Oakwood Court, 7 Avenue Road, South Norwood, London, SE25.

It never ceases to amaze me, what people write to their M.P. about! You will see Miss Coleman is concerned about Judy, the African elephant at Dublin Zoo! Would it be possible, please, for you to pass this letter on to the relevant person, and let Mr. Weatherill have a suitable letter which may be sent on to Miss Coleman? Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Vivian Walker (Mrs)

Secretary to Mr. Weatherill.

SD
23/10/90

The Private Secretary to
H.E. Mr. Andrew O'Rourke,
Ambassador,
Irish Embassy,
17 Grosvenor Place,
London, SW1X 7HR.