



## **An Chartlann Náisiúnta** **National Archives**

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AMBASÁD NA hÉIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

NO!!

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*Handwritten notes:*  
by 'Cory' 2m  
16-3-90  
16:13  
cc: H. Webb: PCC  
Candice R  
ROR

(5 March, 1990.

Mr. Dermot Gallagher,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Department of Foreign Affairs,  
Dublin.

Conversations with Norman Tebbit, Barry Porter and Anthony Beaumont Dark

Dear Assistant Secretary,

Several prominent Tory backbenchers attended last night's St. Patrick's Day Reception for parliamentarians, the media and official contacts. I spoke at some length with Norman Tebbit, Barry Porter and Anthony Beaumont Dark, all three of whom felt strongly about the Supreme Court decision to uphold the Finucane and Clarke Appeal.

In a BBC radio interview earlier in the day Tebbit had told listeners of his dismay at the decision adding that he looked forward nonetheless to a pleasant evening at the Irish Embassy. In our conversation he reminded me of his own first hand experience of terrorism adding that the TV film of scenes outside the court presented particularly strong images which had heightened peoples sense of anger. "I could not but wonder", he continued "how I would have reacted if either of the two had been connected with the Brighton bombings."

He understood the points made by us, in particular the absolute independence of the judiciary. Nonetheless he contended decisions like this provoked "an emotional response" and no amount of reasoned explanation would alter the sense of anger and frustration felt by people like himself.

Porter and Beaumont Dark concurred. Porter felt that Peter Brooke had, as he put it, "let us off lightly". The fact that there had been an all night sitting the previous evening meant that there were fewer MPs in the House and may who were there were not, as he said, "up to battle standard". He predicted, however, that the issue would surface again probably at Prime Minister's Questions although Norman Tebbit was inclined to believe that the afternoon's debate on Jim Kilfedder's private notice question had probably disposed of the matter.

The concern uppermost in his mind, he said, was the possible implications of the decision for other extradition cases. If, he continued, "there were to be other disappointments on the extradition front" the measured response of the Secretary of State would not be sufficient and he added "the Prime Minister would have to respond".

Yours sincerely,



Joe Hayes  
Counsellor