



## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

<b>Reference Code:</b>	2020/17/52
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AMBASÁID NA hÉIREANN, LONDAIN



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Mr Gailster,

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PLEASE NOTE: Effective May 6, 1990  
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28 June 1990

Mr Brian Nason  
Anglo Irish Section  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin 2

The Maguires

Dear Brian

NR  
In the course of a recent conversation with Ms Felicity Clarkson, Secretary to the Sir John May Inquiry, she said that it was now quite clear that the Government forensic scientists had lied at the Maguires' trial. Having seen the cross examination of Mr Higgs, who was in charge of RARDE, that morning, I was not surprised. Clarkson said that she was profoundly shocked. She had discussed the question with Sir John May, who shares her conclusion, but not her surprise. This she attributes to his years on the bench.


Shortly afterwards, I met Anne Maguire, her youngest daughter and Sr Sarah Clark by chance at lunchtime and we had a discussion of the case. Mrs Maguire is remarkably free from bitterness; her sympathy is with the victims of the explosions. Her staunch anti-IRA and anti-violence views led to a debate with Sr Sarah which threatened to get heated. Patrick Maguire was, they said, angry but not bitter. Mrs Maguire's daughter told me that she does feel bitterness towards Hill and Conlon for their role in the affair.

Anne Maguire dismisses the theory of innocent contamination based on her bathroom towels (the only ground, as you know, on which the DPP wishes the case to be referred to the Court of Appeal) as she changed them every day, or even twice a day (it seems that she is obsessively house-proud). When I asked what she thought the source on the contamination might be, Sr Sarah replied, "a plant". Annie Maguire did not disagree.

She says that she will work on the Judith Ward case once things settle down. She confirmed what I had been told by Chris Mullin, that her solicitor, Alastair Logan, has agreed to take the case. Conlon referred to Ward as being innocent at his book launch.

Sr Sarah mentioned Patrick McLaughlin (serving a life sentence for the Chelsea Barracks bombing in 1985) as another miscarriage of justice victim. She paid tribute to Dick O'Brien, who, as First Secretary at the Embassy in the 1970's, agreed to a meeting at the Embassy to discuss the Maguires immediately after the trial, at a time when nobody else, including such as Lord Longford, would do so.

Yours sincerely



Paul Murray  
First Secretary