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*Mr. G. Carthy.
L.M.
30.5.90 955ed as
on 29/5*

Personal Message from the Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey,
to the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Bob Hawke 29/5

When I spoke to you a few days ago, neither of us could have anticipated the atrocity that would so suddenly and cruelly end the lives of two young Australians. My deepest sympathy, and that of my Government, goes out to you and to the families of the young men.

My colleague, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has already made clear the utter abhorrence of the Irish Government and people of this senseless act of violence. This message is simply to convey to you how deeply and personally I share your ~~sadness~~ at this

time. outrage.

Feelings

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DATE 29- May 1990TIME 8:30 pmTO Anglo-Irish/PressFOR Ass. Sec. Gallagher / Dick O'BrienFROM Ray Bassett in absence of Ambassador in IndonesiaTOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET) 11MESSAGE:Australian Reaction to the Killings in Holland

As could be expected there was a major reaction in this country to the events in the Netherlands. Australia has in the main been untouched by terrorism which made the impact of the killings much greater. The Embassy and the Semi States in Sydney received a large number of telephone calls and some fax messages about the incident. While all wished to express concern about the murders none were particularly aggressive. Because of the constant flow of calls I kept the Embassy open over lunchtime to deal with the calls.

The Embassy Faxed a copy of the Minister's statement to the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Minister's Office and the opposition spokesman on Foreign Affairs Senator Hill. I spoke to officials in all 3 offices. The Prime Minister Mr Hawke who is recovering from an operation in Sydney was interviewed on radio about the killings. He mentioned the Minister's statement during that interview. I am attaching the transcript which I got from the P.M.'s Office. In the Senate, which is sitting at present the matter was raised at question time. The acting spokesman for Foreign Affairs, the Industry Minister Senator Button used the Minister's statement also. I have also attached a copy of the "blacks".

The story made front page news in all the main Australian newspapers. The reports are mainly factual in nature. I am also attaching copies of them for your information.

by R. G. G. 29/5/90
See also p. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100
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PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH WARWICK SEUTLER, THE WORLD
TODAY, ABC RADIO, 29 MAY 1990

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

SEUTLER: Prime Minister, you've spoken to Don Grimes, the Australian Ambassador, this morning. What's the latest information?

PM: Warwick, there is no new information that I can give you as a result of speaking to the Ambassador. He confirmed what, in a sense, we already knew and assured me that all consular assistance has been and will continue to be provided in this matter. They assisted in the return of Stephen Melrose's wife and the companion of the late Nick Spanos to London, so I assured him that that should continue to be done. He also assured me that the Dutch authorities were vigorously investigating the tragedies and -

SEUTLER: Do they have any leads?

PM: Not that he was able to convey to me, but I do want to take the opportunity, Warwick, on your program of, of conveying of course my deepest sympathy to the families of Stephen Melrose and Nick Spanos. I believe that all Australians will condemn in the, with me, in the strongest possible terms, the, the absolutely cowardly murders of these two young innocent Australians. The bloody campaign by the IRA against innocent people whether they are British citizens or not is, as far as my Government is concerned, condemned without qualification and you have the twisted logic used by an IRA supporter this morning that mistakes happen in war. Well that logic cuts no ice with me and my Government or, I believe, with the Australian people.

SEUTLER: Well, you're obviously referring to Seamus McGerrigan, the President of the group called the Connolly Society in Australia, who said on AM this morning that the deaths were the latest in a series of tragedies and that Australians should focus on the root cause of the problem which was the British presence in Northern Ireland. You simply reject that do you?

PM: I reject the proposition that there is any justification, excuse or explanation in the tragic death

of these two innocent young Australians to be derived from that sort of twisted logic. There is nothing that can be said in justification of what's happened, or explanation ... That sort of, that sort of twisted logic will, as I say, cut no ice with anyone in this country.

BEUTLER: But isn't he right to the extent that the deaths won't stop until there's a solution to the problem in Northern Ireland?

PM: Warwick, that depends upon whether the IRA is determined that it is going at will and according to its discretion to spray bullets around that are going to kill innocent people. That's a, a decision which they have to make.

BEUTLER: Well, the IRA has apologised for this attack. Does that satisfy you?

PM: It's a great comfort, as Stephen Melrose's mother said this morning, it's too late and in that sense it's meaningless.

BEUTLER: What representations will you make or have you made already to the British Government and the Irish Government on this matter?

PM: I haven't made any representations to the British or the Irish Government. The position of my Government in regards to the situation in Northern Ireland has been made consistently clear and, may I say, it's in line with that of the Irish Government which has, I hear from the media this morning, has been expressed by the, by the Minister for the Irish Government, they have condemned, unqualifiably, what's been done and the only way in which there's going to be a resolution of the, of the differences in Northern Ireland is by negotiations and discussions. That's the view of the Irish Government, it's the view of my Government and there can be no justification, in any way, for what has happened to these innocent young Australians. And in fact this sort of warped logic, this is a, a mistake of war, adds insult to a mortal injury.

BEUTLER: Mr Hawke, thanks very much.

ends

SENATOR HILL

Mr President,

My question is directed to Senator Button, the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

I ask in the light of the horrific killings of two innocent Australians in the Netherlands, apparently by the IRA, what efforts does the Australian Government make to ensure that funds aren't transferred from Australia to support the IRA's terrorist activities, and in particular, funds that have attracted a taxation advantage, and secondly bearing in mind ASIO's recently published warnings on the potential for terrorist activity in Australia, is the Government reviewing procedures for visa applications and the appeal mechanisms that follow?

SENATOR BUTTON

Mr President

I can't answer the specific parts of that question in relation to transfer of funds or visa applications, I'm sure I would be able to provide an answer at least to the second part as soon as possible, but I am not in a position to do so at the present time.

Might I say that the Prime Minister this morning referred to the campaign by the IRA against innocent people, whether they are British citizens or not, and condemned it without qualification. He went on to say that the position of this Government in respect of the situation in Northern Ireland has been made consistently clear, it is in fact in line with that of the Irish Government and the Irish Government itself has condemned unqualifiably what's been done, and suggested that the only way in which there is going to be a resolution of the differences in Northern Ireland is by negotiations and discussion. That's the view of the Irish Government and of course its the view of this Government. The fact that Governments hold that view doesn't in any way lessen the tragedy that has occurred in Holland in respect of the two Australians who were killed and those others who were injured, as I understand it, not seriously, so there has been from this Government a condemnation of what has recently taken place, and I guess a shared view with the Irish Government about the violence associated with the Northern Ireland question over some time.