



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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# ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

17 July 1975.  
(27) + (27)

## CONFIDENTIAL

To: Taoiseach  
c.c. Mr. Paddy Teahon  
Mr. Seán O hUiginn (Dept. of Foreign Affairs)

From: Seán Donlon

Re: Telephone call from Mr. David Irvine, Progressive Unionist Party

Mr. Irvine telephoned this afternoon to say that he and his followers were dismayed by the display of pan-nationalism at Dublin Castle on 14 July. They were particularly annoyed that such a provocative gesture should have taken place in the week of 12 July at a time when loyalist temperatures were at their highest. While he understood that the Provos might well have needed the reassurance provided by such a gesture, it would have been helpful if he and his colleagues had been given some background particularly on the timing of the gesture.

Their information was that there was no immediate threat to the cessation of violence from the hard men in the Provo movement. Against that background, the Dublin Castle event somewhat unsettled loyalists and he had been asked to telephone someone in your office to convey this view.

I thanked Mr. Irvine for his call and told him that his views would be conveyed to you. I also read to him the Joint Press Statement and emphasised the importance of securing a reiteration of Sinn Féin's commitment to peaceful democratic progress and to their acceptance of the principle of consent.

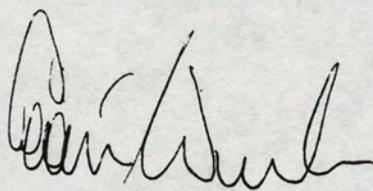
# ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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Mr. Irvine said that on his side things were "pretty stable". What they would like to hear from Adams or another spokesman for the *Provos* was a statement to the effect that IRA weapons would only be used for defensive purposes and that the IRA would not be the ones to fire the first shot. Mr. Irvine said that such a statement would make it much easier for himself and his colleague to keep their hard men quiet.

In reply to my question, Mr. Irvine said that with the exception of a very occasional phonecall with Mr. Fergus Finlay, he had no way of getting messages to or from you. I gave him my numbers and invited him to contact me at any time.



17 July, 1995.