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11 March 1996

Mr. Séan O hUiginn,
Second Secretary,
Anglo-Irish Division
Department of Foreign Affairs.

PI-PA
PI-7

Friday's London Bomb

Dear Second Secretary,

We asked the British Side for any information they had on Friday's bomb. They have reverted to us with some information, but it is incomplete. Accordingly we have asked them to fill in some information gaps and when they do we will report again.

The bomb was located in a litter-bin beside the entrance to a cemetery on the Old Brompton Road in Fulham. Damage was caused to a nearby parked car and there was some superficial damage to local property.

As was widely reported in the press, there was no advance warning by telephone. The IRA usually give at least one telephone warning and gave several 'phone warnings of the Canary Wharf bomb, and of course they also use a recognised code, to differentiate their calls from hoaxes. [There was some speculation in the British Press over the weekend about the absence of a telephone warning: the theory that the bomb was ditched en route to the target to avoid incrimination of the carrier was speculated on].

The bomb was described as sophisticated in its mechanics and in the type of explosives used. This has led London police to believe that it was the work of an organisation rather than of an individual working on his own.

We have asked a number of questions of the British Side, as to the size of the bomb, whether the explosive used was semtex, whether the detonator or timing device used were similar to those used in previous bombs, etc. We will pass on whatever responses we receive.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Magner', written over a horizontal line.

S. Magner

P.S. The British Side has just informed us that when they went back to check the further details required by use, they were informed that the view now in London Police circles is that the I.R.A. are well down the list of suspects for the bomb. The current thinking is that it was the work of either Jewish or Arab extremists.