

July 1989

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Correspondence with the
Reverend W Martin Smyth MP. IRELAND

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July 1989

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 March 1988

Dear Mr. Smyth.

Thank you for your letter of 18 February. I stand by my reply to you in the House of Commons; there is no change in our policy towards Northern Ireland, which I believe serves the best interests of all law-abiding members of the community there, and is detrimental to the interests of no-one.

On the subject of your original question, there were if you recall in that morning's newspapers, press predictions of our response to recommendations by Lord Colville on the future of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. They were inaccurate, and that is what Tom King quite rightly made clear at the Intergovernmental Conference that day.

It is quite wrong to say that the elected representatives of Northern Ireland are on a different footing from those elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland Members have the same rights to participate in the proceedings of the House, as part of the sovereign Parliament of the UK, as any others. I am glad that those who chose to stay away for a time have now returned. They also have the right to make representations on decisions of the Government. The Anglo-Irish Agreement makes no difference to that right, nor does it in the least affect our

PA

sovereignty or the Government's responsibility for decision-making. There can be no justifiable criticism that the Government has kept Northern Ireland Members out of contact. Tom King and his Ministers have made clear that they are always ready to see Members from constitutional parties.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Reverend W. Martin Smyth, M.P.

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

R18/3



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
STORMONT CASTLE
BELFAST BT4 3ST

Tel. Belfast (0232) 63011

M Addison Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

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2. FR

15 March 1988

Dear Mark,

With your letter of 19 February (the delay in replying to which I regret) you enclosed one to the Prime Minister from the Reverend Martin Smyth. I attach a draft reply.

Largely it is self-explanatory. Mr Smyth's question was obscurely phrased, and it is not surprising that the Prime Minister did not pick up his meaning. Mr Smyth's points about the Agreement are well-rehearsed. There seems little profit in a long defence of present policy. The draft is brief and firm, and points up the irony of those who for long boycotted Parliament, and still have a policy (increasingly being eroded) of boycotting NIO Ministers, complaining of lack of contact.

yours sincerely

Martin Donnelly

M DONNELLY

JB 9870

AUH

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO REV W M SMYTH BA BD MP

March 1988

Thank you for your letter of 18 February. I stand by my reply to you in the House of Commons; there is no change in our policy towards Northern Ireland, which I believe serves the best interests of all law-abiding members of the community there, and is detrimental to the interests of no-one.

On the subject of your original question, there were if you recall in that morning's newspapers press predictions of our response to recommendations by Lord Colville on the future of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. They were inaccurate, ^{and that is clear} as Tom King rightly made clear at the Intergovernmental Conference that day. ^{quite}

~~I do not accept your argument that the elected representatives of Northern Ireland are on a different footing from those elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland members have the same rights to participate in the proceedings of the House, as part of the sovereign Parliament of the UK, as any others. I am glad that those who chose to stay away for a time have now returned. They also have the right to make representations on decisions of the Government. The Anglo-Irish Agreement makes no difference to these ^{entitlements} entitlements, nor does it in the least affect our sovereignty or the Government's responsibility for decision-making.~~

~~I do urge you to make use of all these opportunities. I do not believe there can be any criticism that the Government has kept Northern Ireland members out of contact. Tom King and his ministers have made clear that they are always ready to see you, along with Members from constitutional parties.~~

em

Ken Martin SMYTH MP file

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cc #1

1) 8/3
2) 15/3

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 February 1988

Adk

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from The Reverend W. Martin Smyth.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach me by Friday 4 March.

(Mark Addison)

David Watkins, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

u

From: The Reverend W. Martin Smyth, BA., BD., MP.
(Belfast, South)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

18th February 1988

Dear Prime Minister,

You may have had time to reconsider your reply to my question on Tuesday. I have corrected Hansard (Daily Edition) by omitting "creating" wherever they got that.

I understand your music-hall reference "a little Irish" although I am an Ulsterman. Nevertheless I regret there is no change in our policy towards Northern Ireland. My question you will reflect in the quietness of your room referred to the fact that Tom King was telling Jerry Collins the intention of the Home Office before Douglas Hurd had brought his Act to the Commons.

Some thought I should have used 'redundant' instead of 'useless' but we have not been paid redundancy money and allowed to seek other purposeful employment. By the Anglo (note not British) Irish agreement stewards are elected representatives in Northern Ireland on a different footing from Councillors or M.P.s in the rest of the Kingdom. I regretfully after six years in Westminster I had more contact with you before my election when I was Chairman of the Ulster Unionist Executive.

Yours sincerely
Martin

Education Reform

13. **Mr. Haselhurst:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Science what representations he has received from rural areas about open enrolment; and if he will make a statement.

Mrs. Rumbold: A number of the responses to the Department's consultation document, "Admission of Pupils to Maintained Schools", and some of the letters received from groups and individuals, have raised issues relating to education in rural areas.

Mr. Haselhurst: Can my hon. Friend offer an assurance to parents living in a village which has a popular school that their child will be able to go to that school, even though it may attract pupils from other parts of the district?

Mrs. Rumbold: The criteria for admission to schools will remain very much as they are at present. That is to say, they will relate to where the children live, whether there are brothers and sisters in that school, and the distances to be travelled, so I think I can offer my hon. Friend the assurance he requires.

State Schools (Rural Areas)

14. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will make a further statement of his policy towards state schools in rural areas.

Mrs. Rumbold: It is the responsibility of local education authorities to provide a proper service to rural as well as to other areas. My right hon. Friend is currently supporting a number of projects, including some in Norfolk, designed to identify ways of enriching the curriculum of rural primary schools. Any proposal for the closure of a rural school which comes before my right hon. Friend is considered very carefully in the light of the criteria set out in the Department's Circular 3/87, which makes it clear that size alone is not a criterion for closure.

Mr. Bellingham: I am grateful for that reply. Will my hon. Friend reiterate her support for small rural schools and, above all, for the crucial role that they play in conserving the fabric of many rural communities? Is she also aware that some rural schools would like to opt out under the Secretary of State's proposals and that it would be unfortunate if they were precluded from doing so by too high a limit being set?

Mrs. Rumbold: I thank my hon. Friend for those words. Of course, the Government are anxious to preserve those schools which are excellent, particularly those in small rural areas. We are well aware of the role that they play. However, we have to consider other criteria besides the fondness of parents for small schools, and those include education criteria.

Education Reform

17. **Mr. Martlew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Science what effect the Education Reform Bill will have on units concerned with special education attached to county and voluntary schools; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Dunn: There is no specific provision in the Bill relating to such units.

Mr. Martlew: Does the Minister agree that, due to the opting-out possibility included in the Education Reform Bill, special units will suffer because education authorities will not take the risk of those schools opting out and will not put resources into those particular units.

Mr. Dunn: When my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State comes to consider any applications for schools to become grant-maintained schools and to have grant-maintained status, he will consider all the arguments for and against such opting out.

PRIME MINISTER

Engagements

Q1. **Mr. Gill:** To ask the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 16 February.

The Prime Minister (Mrs. Margaret Thatcher): This morning I had meetings with ministerial colleagues and others. In addition to my duties in the House, I shall be having further meetings later today. This evening I hope to have an audience of Her Majesty the Queen.

Mr. Gill: In the light of the Brussels agreement, will my right hon. Friend undertake to seek the elimination of MCAs on pigs and poultry? In doing so, will she consider the enormous potential in that sector for converting surplus cereals into pigmeat and poultrymeat, of which the United Kingdom is a net importer?

The Prime Minister: I believe that British farmers will welcome the agreement that we reached in Brussels. With regard to the two matters raised by my hon. Friend, I am aware that pig farmers are in acute difficulty at present, although I understand that poultry farmers are not in quite such difficulty. I confirm that my right hon. Friend the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will be seeking at Brussels the elimination or, at any rate, the reduction of MCAs to help our pig farmers.

Mr. Hattersley: As there have been very substantial changes in the education policy on which the Government fought the general election, can we be told whether the basic principles still stand? Does the Prime Minister still insist, as she did at the last Tory party conference, that, in education, the wishes of parents must be paramount?

The Prime Minister: As the right hon. Gentleman is aware, in our last manifesto and in the legislation before the House, we are giving parents a greatly increased say in education and greatly increased opportunity for children. Those are the principles on which we fought the election. That is what is happening.

Mr. Hattersley: May I first of all welcome that emphasis on the importance of parental choice — [*Interruption.*] Does that mean that, if the ballot of Inner London parents demonstrates that a majority of them want to continue with ILEA, the policy will be changed and ILEA will be kept in operation?

The Prime Minister: No. Our policy on ILEA has been generally welcomed — [*Interruption.*] At the election, we made it clear that each local authority could opt out if it wished. Therefore, the future of the ILEA was always in doubt. We went further than that in our wish to help parents and said that, if parents chose to opt a school out of ILEA or of a local authority, they could do so. They

could, therefore, have stopped ILEA on their own. We were faced with views which suggested that we have an orderly rundown of ILEA and I believe that that is the right policy.

Mr. Hattersley: Does the Prime Minister realise that, if her last answer means anything, it means that parent power is to be respected so long as it agrees with Conservative prejudice?

The Prime Minister: Nonsense. The trouble is that the right hon. Gentleman disagrees with our policy. That is why he lost.

Mr. Higgins: Will my right hon. Friend consider carefully the evidence that Lord Cockfield gave yesterday to the Select Committee on the Treasury and Civil Service? As the EEC Commission is evidently prepared to consider only formal representations, will she today write to the Commission, making it clear that the commitments that she has given on zero rating for VAT are absolute and that the Commission should not waste its time putting forward proposals that involve the abolition of the principle of zero rating for VAT?

The Prime Minister: As my right hon. Friend is aware, the Commission, and one of the Commissioners representing this country, are very well aware of our position on VAT. We shall insist on our right to determine zero rating. Any changes in taxation have to be by unanimous vote and we would not agree to that. If my right hon. Friend thinks that the Commissioners do not know, I shall make arrangements to see that they do.

Rev. Martin Smyth: Will the Prime Minister clarify the reports to the effect that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is conveying to the Government of the Republic of Ireland the intention of creating another Department of Government before that Department comes to the House and has the consent of the House? Or is this just another attempt to make the House as useless as Members representing Northern Ireland?

The Prime Minister: The hon. Gentleman's question was a little Irish, such that I did not get the full meaning of its content. There is no change in our policy towards Northern Ireland.

Q2. Mr. Stokes: To ask the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 16 February.

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply that I gave some moments ago.

Mr. Stokes: Is my right hon. Friend aware that her recent meeting with the bishops of the Church of England has caused widespread satisfaction? Is she aware that at a time of rising prosperity, this can best be accompanied by high moral standards? Is it not the duty of the Church, as well as of parents and teachers, to proclaim those?

The Prime Minister: I agree with my hon. Friend. Rising prosperity brings great benefits, but on its own it is not enough. It is now one uses that rising prosperity that counts. I certainly had a private meeting of the kind which my hon. Friend indicated. I think that he and I, and most people, believe that all societies need to have rules and standards by which to live and that the Church has a great part to play in setting those rules and standards.

Q3. Mr. Skinner: To ask the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 16 February.

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply that I gave some moments ago.

Mr. Skinner: When will the Prime Minister end the confidence trick that is being played upon pensioners and other recipients of state benefit in relation to the back pay which they were supposed to receive recently? Is she aware that in my constituency a 79-year-old blind pensioner, who has a son claiming constant attendance allowance, was due to receive £16 on both books, and in that very week her branch of the DHSS sent one pension book and reduced the entitlement to £8? Is it not time the Government got rid of the sinister streak that enables them to rob blind pensioners of £8 when the Prime Minister is doling out money to the Common Market and not investigating the fraud in the City of London?

The Prime Minister: As the hon. Gentleman is aware, the extra sum of approximately £8 is being paid. The Government were not legally compelled to pay it — [Interruption.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Prime Minister has been asked a question.

The Prime Minister: The Government were not legally compelled to pay it but took the decision to pay it as a moral duty. In the overwhelming majority of cases it is being paid perfectly normally. If the hon. Gentleman has a particular case he should let my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State know—[Interruption.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Prime Minister must be given a chance to answer.

The Prime Minister: If the hon. Gentleman has a particular case to raise he should let my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State know, or have the courtesy, if he is raising a case of one out of 10 million pensioners — [Interruption.] to let me know. If the hon. Gentleman is really the compassionate man that he is, I am sure he will see that that person does not lose.

Mr. Ian Bruce: In welcoming the positive news from Moscow, may I ask my right hon. Friend to organise a fresh mission for her right hon. and learned Friend the Foreign Secretary? As he has been able to persuade the Soviet Union of the logic and sense of our maintaining our independent nuclear deterrent, perhaps he could be sent on a mission to persuade the Front Benches of the Labour and Liberal parties—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not the Prime Minister's responsibility.

The Prime Minister: I very much welcome — [Interruption.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is perfectly in order for the Prime Minister to answer the first part of that question.

The Prime Minister: I very much welcome Mr. Shevardnadze's confirmation of Soviet policy, that our independent nuclear deterrent is not contained within these arms control negotiations, and is entirely outside them. That is why we are modernising it with Trident and that is why we on the Government side believe that it is fundamental to our defence, and we shall see that our defences are fully safeguarded in the future.

Q4. Mr. Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 16 February.



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 December 1987

Dear Mr. Smyth,

Thank you for your letter of 13 November enclosing a copy of the Times of 2 November.

Reports that the Libyans supplied the arms are well founded, and you will of course also be fully aware of the Irish Government's reaction to information received by the Gardai that previous arms shipments may have reached the IRA in the Republic. The statement by the Irish Minister for Justice, Mr. Collins, clearly showed his Government's deep concern at the possibility that a large supply of arms may have reached the country prior to the seizure of the Eksund. The very extensive search involving some 7,000 members of their security forces is a very positive response and one that we must welcome. It demonstrates that the Irish Government, like us, is fully committed to the fight against terrorism - as Mr. Haughey confirmed to me when we met in Copenhagen last week.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Reverend W. Martin Smyth, M.P.

MS

S E C R E T

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

7 December 1987

Dear Charles,

Your letter of 16 November asked for a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to the Reverend Martin Smyth in response to his letter of 13 November on the subject of the Eksund arms seizure. This is attached.

Mr Smyth seems to be attempting to point the finger of suspicion that Mr Haughey had some involvement in the Eksund affair, by highlighting a report in the Times of 2 November where the son of Adrian Hopkins (the captain of the Eksund) refers to a recent meeting between his father and the Taoiseach concerning the possible sale of a boat called the "Kula". The boy states that the sale did not take place and that his father is a member of Dun Laoghaire boat club (a short distance from Dublin). The Reverend Smyth is also of course referring back to Mr Haughey's history on the subject of supplying arms to the IRA.

We have of course no way of confirming or denying the alleged meeting. It is entirely possible in a small place like Dun Laoghaire, and given the Taoiseach's interest in boating, that they may have been at some stage in the same company. You may also recall from other material that the "Kula" was named by Hopkins and Cairns as one of the boats which previously shipped arms to Ireland. It is our view that the Prime Minister should ignore the connotations placed on the article by Mr Smyth.

The draft reply therefore focusses on the Irish Government's response to the possibility that previous shipments of arms may have reached the IRA and welcomes their positive action on this front.

*Yours sincerely,
Robin Masefield*

R C MASEFIELD

S E C R E T

DRAFT LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Reverend W Martin Smyth
117 Cregagh Road
BELFAST
BT6 0LA

December 1987

VC3ATZ

Thank you for your letter of 13 November enclosing a copy of the Times of 2 November.

~~I agree that Mr Hopkins' son was probably seeking to defend his father and show him in the best light; I can read no more into his comments than that.~~
to be in my opinion to correct on message

Reports that the Libyans supplied the arms are well founded, and you will of course also be fully aware of the Irish Government's reaction to information received by the Gardai that previous arms shipments may have reached the IRA in the Republic. The statement by the Irish Minister for Justice, Mr Collins, clearly showed his Government's deep concern at the possibility that a large supply of arms may have reached the country prior to the seizure of the Eksund. The very extensive search involving some 7,000 members of their security forces is a very positive response and one that we must welcome. It demonstrates that the Irish Government, like us, is fully committed to the fight against terrorism.

which as Mr. Haughey advised to me when we met in Copenhagen last week. AM

Revd. W. M. Smyth MP  file DS

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

ACW

16 November 1987

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from The Reverend W. Martin Smyth, M.P.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for Prime Minister signature. It would be helpful if this could reach me by Monday 30 November.

C D POWELL

Robin Masefield, Esq.
Northern Ireland Office

Handwritten initials

From: The Reverend W. Martin Smyth, MP.
(Belfast, South)



Reply to
117 Cregagh Road
Belfast BT6 0LA
0232 - 57009

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th November 1987.

The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1A 0AA.

EDP.

Jean Pierre Minister

I enclose a copy of The Times of November 2nd. It was the edition circulated in Belfast and I had not noticed the last paragraph concerning the 'French swoop stops big IRA gun shipment'. ^{in my} This may be a completely innocent comment. I suspect that the fifteen-year-old was seeking to put the best light on his father but I must confess that I have my own deep suspicions of the whole thing. *London side*

You will remember that there was speculation as to the size of the haul being too vast for the IRA and the suggestion was that it may be a Governmental involvement. Naturally enough the focus goes on to Libya. I am doubtful how great a benefactor Gadaffi is of anyone and although I am aware that enmity can drive a person a long way I would apply that equally to Charles Haughey and you will remember that he had a questionable background when it comes to supplying arms for the IRA. In fact Conor Cruise O'Brien, as Minister of Post and Telegraphs in the Republic, had difficulty getting to the bottom of the previous arms scandal and was warned off. I would ask you to keep this in mind therefore in the course of your ongoing discussions.

Yours sincerely,

W. Martin Smyth

W. Martin Smyth.

French swoop stops big IRA gun shipment

Booby-trap on mystery trawler defused

By Philip Jacobson in Brest, Roger Boyes in Valletta, John Cooney in Dublin and Richard Ford in London

The massive 150-tonne haul of arms, ammunition and explosives discovered on board a vessel seized off the French coast is suspected of being en route from Libya to the Provisional IRA for their terrorist campaign in Northern Ireland.

This morning the French authorities will begin unloading the huge cache from the Panamanian-registered trawler Eksund, which had been booby-trapped with plastic explosives designed to blow it to pieces at the touch of a switch.

Customs officers, who had been shadowing the 250-tonne trawler for three days before they swooped as it entered French territorial waters off the coast of Finisterre on Friday, discovered five loaded and cocked AK-47 rifles in the crew quarters.

But the speed with which the officers swooped on the vessel took the five crewmen, who have Irish passports, by surprise as they donned frogmen's suits and prepared to launch a rubber dinghy.

The crewmen, led by their captain, Mr Adrian Hopkins, aged 49, from Bray in Co Wicklow were last night being

interrogated at the heavily-guarded police headquarters in Brest and are expected to appear before an investigating magistrate later today.

Mr Hopkins was one of the Irish Republic's largest holiday tour operators until his company, Bray Travel International, went into liquidation in 1980. Also on board the vessel were Mr Henry Cairns from Bray and three other crew members from Donegal and Mayo.

The three unnamed men on board the vessel had passports whose serial numbers were contained in the batch of 125 stolen from the passport office in Dublin last year. They were using aliases when detained and told customs officers that they were on a journey from

Blow to Provos.....2

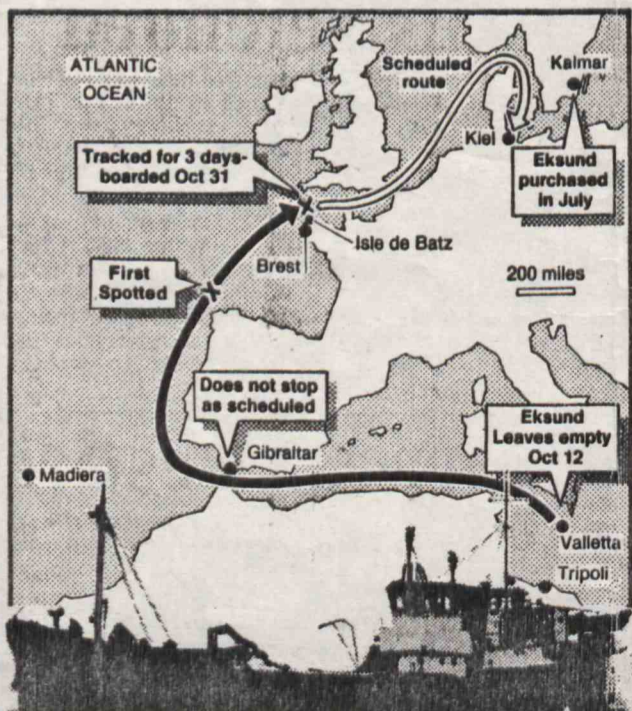
ties had been alerted about the boat by British intelligence but M Guy Sturm, chief of the regional customs service, said the boat was steering an erratic course to stay clear of French territorial waters.

He added that suspicion was further heightened because the ship had recently changed its country of origin. After she was boarded, he added, the papers were found to contain certain "irregularities".

It is uncertain whether the crew were preparing to head for land for a pre-arranged rendezvous or whether the ageing vessel had run into trouble. One theory is that the cache of arms would be landed on the Continent and then shipped to Ireland in small consignments to minimize the risk of seizures.

Mystery surrounds the route taken by the Eksund which sailed down the Kiel Canal on August 8, telling the authorities she was on a voyage from Kalmar in Sweden to Malta and was not carrying any cargo. It is registered by Lloyd's of London as being owned by a Swedish shipping company, but was apparently sold four months ago.

Shipping sources and customs officials on Malta told *The Times* yesterday that the old cargo vessel, intercepted in France with a huge load of apparently IRA-bound guns and munitions, had left Valletta earlier this month with a completely empty hold.



Madeira to Kiel, in West Germany.

Irish security sources said that at least three of the crew have connections with the Provisional IRA and that the

The Eksund, registered in Panama and with a small Irish crew, berthed in Valletta between August 27 and October 12 when it set out to sea, apparently destined for Gib-

French find huge haul of arms destined for IRA

Continued from page 1

Republican source said that it was conceivable that the cargo — or part of it — could have been destined for the IRA.

But senior members attending the Sinn Fein conference expressed surprise at the volume of arms found by the French authorities.

Mr Joe Cahill, now living in Dublin and a member of the Central Committee of Sinn Fein, said yesterday: "From my own experience on the Claudia (seized off the Irish coast in 1973) an arms shipment is a closely-guarded secret known only to a few members of the IRA Army Council."

Irish police are investigating links between the five Irishmen on board the Brest ship with the theft in Dublin last year of 100 passports from the passport office. That theft came to light earlier this year when diplomats investigated charges against an Irish official at the Embassy in London, Mr Kevin McDonald.

Mr McDonald was acquitted by a Dublin Court last month on charges of having

sold passports. The Irish Government is to appeal against Mr McDonald's acquittals.

When Mrs Stephanie Hopkins heard radio reports yesterday morning of the seizure of the Eksund, she phoned the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin to seek confirmation that her husband Adrian was among the five arrested Irishmen.

"It came as a complete surprise to us that our father was involved in this expedition," his son Adrian, aged 16, said last night from the family's home at Blackberry Lane, Delgany, Co Wicklow.

"Our father left about a month ago and had bought the Eksund several months ago from a dealer in Sweden," he added.

"He was often away sailing in the Mediterranean. Since the collapse of his travel agency he had been involved in buying old vessels and renovating them for re-sale.

"We thought he was just on another sailing expedition. He rang home to Mum several times and told her that he had

a problem of bringing the boat from Malta to Gibraltar.

"But the last time he phoned his voice seemed funny and he spoke very quickly.

"When she heard the reports on radio that the Eksund had left Valetta on October 12, Mum suspected that he might be on board.

"Mum phoned the Department of Foreign Affairs and they confirmed his arrest."

Mr Hopkins has three sons, Stephen, 19, Adrian, 16, Neil, 8, and a daughter, Clara, 13.

Adrian said that his father had no IRA connection and he was amazed that there was speculation of gun running. He was also surprised to hear that Mr Henry Cairns was also on board. He said that Cairns was an old friend of his father and he thought he ran a bookshop in Bray.

Adrian also said that his father had spoken recently to the Irish Prime Minister, Mr Charles Haughey, about the possible sale of a boat, The Kula, but the Prime Minister did not buy it. Mr Hopkins is a member of the Dun Laoghaire boat club.



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