



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 October 1979

Dear Ray,

Lord Carrington's Interview  
with CBS News

While he was in New York last week, Lord Carrington gave an interview on the CBS/TV breakfast news programme. I attach a transcript of the portion of the interview covering Northern Ireland.

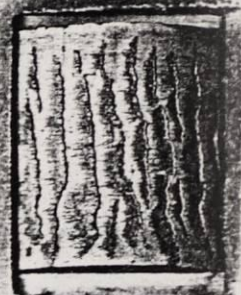
I am sending a copy of this letter to Michael Alexander (No 10).

Yours etc

Paul Lever

Roy Harrington Esq  
Private Secretary to the Secretary  
of State for Northern Ireland  
Government Offices  
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*fs. [unclear]*



RICHARD HOTTELET: THERE IS ANOTHER MAJOR PROBLEM, A TERRIBLE PROBLEM THAT IS A DOMESTIC PROBLEM FOR YOU AS WELL AS A FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEM - NORTHERN IRELAND. WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE. AND HOW MUCH LONGER WILL IT GO ON THIS WAY?

LORD CARRINGTON: WELL WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE IS THAT A LOT OF TERRORISTS ARE MAKING THE SITUATION THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO SOLVE. I HAVE KNOWN LORD MOUNTBATTEN FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

AND TO SUPPOSE THAT THE MURDER OF LORD MOUNTBATTEN WHO HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IRELAND, OR THE MURDER OF 17 BRITISH SOLDIERS WHO WERE THERE TO TRY AND KEEP THE PEACE IS GOING TO FURTHER A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND IS ABSURD. I MEAN THE REAL TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE PROVISIONAL IRA ARE DISRUPTIVE. THEY DON'T WANT A SETTLEMENT. THEY ARE ANARCHISTS. AND ANYBODY WHO THINKS THAT THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND IS WRONG. AND WE HAVE GOT TO STOP IT. MR. LYNCH, THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC WHO SAY EXACTLY THE SAME THING AS ME ABOUT THIS. I MEAN THE PIRA MUST BE STAMPED OUT. BUT HAVING SAID THAT OF COURSE THERE IS THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTY IN NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH I THINK SOME PEOPLE SEEM TO THINK IS RATHER MORE SIMPLE THAN WE DO. THERE ARE A MILLION AND A HALF PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE MILLION OF THEM ARE PROTESTANT AND HALF A MILLION - ROUGHLY - ARE CATHOLICS. AND THE PROTESTANTS DON'T WANT TO BECOME PART OF SOUTHERN IRELAND, AND THE CATHOLICS DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH IS TOTALLY DOMINATED BY THE PROTESTANTS. AND EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO YOU CAN'T COERCE PEOPLE INTO DOING WHAT THEY DON'T WANT TO DO. AND SO YOU HAVE GRADUALLY GOT TO BUILD UP A CLIMATE IN WHICH PEOPLE CAN LIVE TOGETHER. AND YOU GET A POLITICAL SOLUTION WHICH WILL GRADUALLY EVOLVE AND THE PROVINCE CAN LIVE IN PEACE.

RICHARD HOTTELET: NOW IS THERE AN AMERICAN FACTOR IN THIS TOO. THE PROVISIONAL IRA - THE TERRORISTS - HAVE RECEIVED A LOT OF HELP AND ARE STILL GETTING A LOT OF HELP FROM THE UNITED STATES. IS THIS A SEVERE, SERIOUS COMPLICATION?

LORD CARRINGTON: WELL I HOPE THAT THOSE PEOPLE WHO FEEL  
DISPOSED TO CONTRIBUTE TO FUNDS DO LOOK AND HAVE A REALLY GOOD  
LOOK AT WHERE THE MONEY IS GOING. BECAUSE IF IT IS GOING TO WEAPONS  
AND ARMS AND TERRORISM IT IS PREVENTING A SETTLEMENT IN NORTHERN  
IRELAND AND NOT HELPING IT. AND I DO PRAY THAT PEOPLE DO THAT  
BECAUSE MORE MONEY, MORE WEAPONS THAT THE IRA GET - THE PROVISIONAL  
IRA GET - THE LESS LIKELY WE CAN GET SETTLEMENT.

RICHARD HOTTELET: DO YOU SEE THE OUTLINES OF A SETTLEMENT  
WHICH MIGHT APPEAL TO THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS IN THIS PROBLEM?

LORD CARRINGTON: WELL WE HAVE TRIED A GREAT MANY THINGS IN  
THESE LAST TEN YEARS.

RICHARD HOTTELET: THERE IS SOME TALK OF NEW INITIATIVE...

LORD CARRINGTON: WELL, WE ARE AT THE MOMENT WORKING ON SOME  
IDEAS WHICH WE HOPE WILL LEAD IN THE END TO A DEFUSING OF THE  
WHOLE SITUATION. BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO SUPPOSE THAT -  
THERE IS SOME PANACEA, SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN PULL OUT OF A HAT  
WHICH IS GOING TO SOLVE SOMETHING WHICH HAS BEEN WITH US FOR 300  
YEARS. WHAT WE MUST DO IS TO WORK PATIENTLY AND QUIETLY TO REC-  
ONCILE THE TWO COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. AND THEN THEY MUST  
MAKE UP THEIR MINDS WHAT THEY WANT TO DO.

X

21 OCT 1979

