



CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Northern Ireland

You may wish to tell the Cabinet tomorrow about the talks with Mr. Lynch. You could do this under the Foreign Affairs item. I suggest however that, coming so soon after the Cabinet last considered Northern Ireland and before you have settled who is to have responsibility for co-ordinating security matters, it would be desirable to avoid any more general discussion of Northern Ireland matters.

2. You could draw on the following points:-

- (a) Mr. Lynch was persuaded to agree that terrorism must be stamped out; and that security co-operation between his authorities and ours must be "substantially improved".
- (b) Mr. Lynch was however defensive and ill at ease. He noted the economic damage which terrorism was doing to the Republic. He made little effort to press you for a "political initiative", or to dispute your point that no such initiative would satisfy the terrorists. He had no suggestions of his own to offer, either in the political or in the security field. His deputy, Mr. Colley, was not helpful.
- (c) It was agreed that in about 3 weeks time there should be a further Ministerial meeting (Mr. Atkins on our side and on theirs the Foreign and Justice Ministers, Mr. O'Kennedy and Mr. Collins); that the Chief Constable and his Dublin opposite number should be present; and that this meeting should establish the Republic's considered response to the proposals for increased security co-operation which you put forward.
- (d) Your security proposals were all reciprocal. The most important were:-
 - (i) the RUC to be allowed to question suspected terrorists in the Republic, in the Garda's presence;



CONFIDENTIAL

- (ii) British Army helicopters to be allowed to patrol up to 10-15 km into the Republic;
 - (iii) a Garda liaison officer to be appointed to RUC Headquarters.
- (e) Mr. Lynch was not forthcoming but he promised to study all your requests. He begged that none should be made public. You agreed to this for the time being; and so far he seems to have kept his side of the bargain. But if the Republican response at the Atkins/O'Kennedy/Collins meeting is too negative, we may need to threaten to go public thereafter. An RTE poll since Mr. Lynch was here suggests that Irish public opinion is moving in favour of greater security co-operation and strong anti-terrorist measures.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Hunt', is written above the typed name.

(John Hunt)

12th September 1979



CONFIDENTIAL

(ii) British Army helicopters to be allowed to patrol up to

10-15 km into the Republic;

(iii) a Garda liaison office to be opened in LUC Headquarters.

(e) Mr. Lynch was not forthcoming in the previous study all year

ago. He hoped that some kind of deal could be struck. You

agreed to this for the time being; and to continue to have

kept his side of the bargain. But if the Republican response at

the Athina/O'Malley/Gallagher meeting is too negative, we may

need to threaten to go public thereafter. An RTE poll since

Mr. Lynch was here suggests that Irish public opinion is moving

in favour of greater security co-operation and strong anti-terrorist

measures.

(John Hume)

13th September 1979