

VC



10 DOWNING STREET

cc MARRER

Subject: Ireland: Sit. Pt 4

From the Principal Private Secretary

10 January 1984

Dear Derek,

As I reported to Mr. Andrew on the telephone this afternoon, the Taoiseach spoke to the Prime Minister shortly before 4 o'clock on the telephone. He referred to "the matter reported to the Home Secretary by Scotland Yard at lunchtime today", which was clearly the threat to Mr. Garfield Weston and Associated Foods. He said that, if Mr. Weston were minded to yield to this threat, it would not only be a tragedy for Mr. Weston and his company, but would open the way to a series of other threats on the same lines. The Prime Minister told the Taoiseach that the British Government shared his concern and took the same view: a senior member of the Government would be in touch with Mr. Weston to underline these points.

I am copying this letter to Hugh Taylor (Home Office) and Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

Derek Hill, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.