



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 September 1981

X ref. m

h.a. [Signature]

Dear Michael

IRA Propaganda Film

I wrote to you on 21 August about an allegedly pro-IRA propaganda film being made in Belgium and we have since spoken.

Since then a senior FCO official has summoned the Belgian Charge d'Affaires and our Embassy in Brussels have continued to pursue the matter with the Belgian MFA. You may have seen Brussels teleno 139 (attached). This records that the Belgian Government say that a subsidy was given by the 'Culture Francaise' (an offshoot of the Ministry for the French Community) but maintain that the scenario, submitted in advance, did not seem anti-British and that the local authorities in Northern Ireland had helped the film makers. It also seems that only minimal assistance was offered as regards filming the former Liege prison.

The Northern Ireland Office say that the team were in Londonderry for about two months up to mid-July. They liaised with the RUC, from whom they sought permission to film in the usual way. There was also some filming at a community workshop. Any official cooperation appears to have been routine and low-level.

The Belgians have fully registered our concern. Our aim now is to persuade them to vet the film before it issues. So far evidence of its pro-IRA nature has been based on press reports and indications of the French free-lance director's left wing views. Our Embassy are continuing to keep in close touch with the Belgian Foreign Ministry.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

[Handwritten signature]
 (F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq

10 Downing St