



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

C M J Marshall Esq
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

10th October 1984

J. M.W.

Dear Charles,

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

I am replying to your letter of 13th September to Nigel Pantling. There is one Northern Ireland issue on which the Secretary of State feels there may be developments during October that could lead to pressure for an Oral Statement to the House.

This concerns the enquiry by the Royal Ulster Constabulary into the circumstances surrounding the attempt in Belfast on 12 August to arrest Martin Galvin of NORAID and the subsequent death of Mr Sean Downes. The enquiry may well be completed before the end of the month; and because the incident generated widespread concern, both in this country and abroad, there could be strong pressure on the Secretary of State to make a statement once he has received a copy of the report of the enquiry.

This does not at present merit a firm bid for time for a Ministerial Statement in the period 22 - 31 October but the Lord Privy Seal will wish to be aware that developments during the remainder of this month could make a bid for an Oral Statement necessary.

I am copying this letter to the other recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely

Neil Ward.

N D WARD

Parliament Pt 6

HLCIS Procedure

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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

13 September 1984

Mr Fletcher

To see o/v

*Ans
13/9*

*NR
11/9*

Dear Nigel,

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Experience has shown that one consequence of the business of Government continuing through the Summer while Parliament is not sitting is that there is a profusion of bids for Oral Statements to be made in the few days immediately following the long recess. This can result in unacceptable pressure on the business scheduled for those days, and lead to difficulties where time has to be found at short notice for an unforeseen Statement on a topical subject.

I should, therefore, be grateful if you and copy addressees could now begin to give some thought to whether any issues have arisen or decisions been taken in recent weeks which will necessitate Ministers making Oral Statements in the House in the period 22-31 October. In view of the likely need to juggle with competing requirements, it would be helpful to have any such bids, giving details of the subject matter and any circumstances which militate in favour of the Statement being made on a particular day, by Friday 12 October.

Copies of this letter go to the Private Secretaries to all Cabinet Ministers in charge of Departments, to Tim Fletcher at No 10 and Murdo Maclean in the Chief Whip's Office. No doubt you and they will ensure that it is drawn to the attention of Private Secretaries to junior departmental Ministers.

yours

Charles

C M J MARSHALL
Private Secretary

N Pantling Esq
Assistant Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for the Home Department

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