

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
CONFIDENTIAL



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

6 September 1985

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Don Len,

... I attach a copy of a letter from the Irish Minister for Justice, Mr Michael Noonan, about the court proceedings associated with the seizure by the Irish Government of IRA funds, which was passed to the Home Secretary today by the Irish Ambassador. The Home Secretary will be acknowledging the letter personally; and he would be grateful if the point of substance raised by the Minister could be pursued.

I am copying this letter and the enclosure to Charles Powell (No 10) and Jim Daniell (NIO).

Yours sincerely
Hugh Taylor

H H TAYLOR

Len Appleyard, Esq

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OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT
(Office of the Minister for Justice)
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
(Dublin)

4 September 1985

Dear Douglas,

I am writing to offer you my sincere congratulations on your appointment as Home Secretary. It is a cause of some regret to those of us who have had the pleasure of meeting with you over the past twelve months that you are leaving the Northern Ireland scene at this juncture but I have no doubt that you will continue to use your good offices in the quest for a solution to the complex problems of Northern Ireland.

Might I take this opportunity of mentioning to you a matter that arises out of the enactment of the Offences against the State (Amendment) Act, 1985 which, as you may recall, enabled us to seize a substantial sum of IRA money. As you probably know those monies are now the subject of Court proceedings on two counts, one designed to retrieve them and the other seeking a declaration that the legislation is unconstitutional.

Although one can never anticipate the outcome of Court proceedings - I am of course optimistic - I would be much more confident of success if the information from the Swiss bank regarding the origin of the monies was forthcoming. The latter, as you know, has been the subject of approaches to the Swiss Foreign Ministry by our respective Ambassadors in Berne. I am somewhat disappointed at the lack of progress in the matter to date and I have been giving some consideration to a personal approach to my Swiss counterpart. I would be grateful if you would examine the matter from your end to see if there is anything further possible on your side. I need hardly add that failure to retain the monies would deal a severe blow to our efforts to defeat terrorism and open the floodgates to further extortion demands.

Once again I wish you well in your new post.

Sincerely

The Right Hon. Douglas Hurd M.P.
Home Secretary
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1 H9AT