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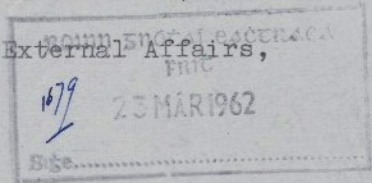
AMBASSADE D'IRLANDE

P. M. B. 2421,
LAGOS.

19 March 1962
Urgent

For Information and
Political Divisions.

Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
Iveagh House,
DUBLIN.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN LAGOS, 1962.

I have the honour to report that we gave a large Reception on the evening of St. Patrick's Day at our residence, 3 Ilado Close, Ikoyi. Five hundred guests attended, including the Governor General, H.E. Dr. Nmandi Azikiwe; the Minister for Justice, Dr. T. O. Elias; the Minister of Health, Dr. M. A. Majekodunmi and his wife; Mr. Mbu, Secretary of the Navy; and the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senator N. Bamali, (Mr. Jaja Wachuku is at Geneva). The Ambassadors of all the countries accredited in Lagos also came with most of their staffs. A feature of the Reception was the presence of a large number of Nigerians who had studied in Ireland, e.g., Chief and Mrs. Akirelli, Miss O. Wackuku, niece of the Foreign Minister, and many others. About two hundred Irish citizens living in the vicinity of Lagos attended, including almost all the Irish S.M.A. and C.S.Sp. missionaries here. Archbishop Taylor was away but he was represented by Rt. Rev. Dr. Aggey, the Auxiliary Bishop of Lagos. Finally, the Representatives of the main trading firms in Lagos also were present.

The Police Band of Nigeria, forty members strong, were in attendance in the garden and played the Nigerian and Irish National Anthems at the arrival and departure of the Governor General, and a selection of Irish airs in between. The Tricolour was of course flown and shamrock presented to all the guests on arrival. The Governor General wore his shamrock throughout the reception. Irish beverages and Irish cigarettes were served.



AMBASSADE D'IRLANDE

In the early afternoon we held a separate reception at the residence for the Irish nuns in Lagos, about twenty of whom attended for afternoon tea and refreshments.

On the previous day I called on the Archbishop and on the convents in the vicinity of Lagos to present shamrock. I also arranged with B. O. A. C. to send shamrock by mail to all the Nigerian Hierarchy and all our nationals, with the enclosed card, a few days beforehand.

Per Lagos

X |

It occurred to us here that the many Nigerian students in Ireland might wish to see the enclosed pictures of the Governor General and the Minister of Health, etc., at the Reception, and that it would strengthen relations between the two countries if they were published by some of the daily papers in Dublin and Cork.

The Secretary and Political Division might wish to see them in connection with recent important correspondence on this subject in order to consider what use might be made of them.

E. J. Kennedy
AMBASSADOR

Encs: Shamrock Card
Photographs.

X | *Minister agrees.*
RB 29.3.62