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THE PRIME MINISTER

11 March 1989

Dear Charlie,

Thank you for your response of 6 February to my letters about security and extradition issues, and for giving your personal attention to these matters.

Your account of developments on specialist training for the Garda is encouraging and I am glad that better intelligence was behind the recent most welcome finds of terrorist material on your side of the border. Good intelligence shared rapidly between the police on both sides of the border is the key to forestalling terrorist activity.

We are in agreement on the further development of secure communication systems between the RUC and the Garda. But I am disappointed by what you say about communications between the British Army and the Garda. I would not be pressing the matter unless I was satisfied that there was a real practical problem here. I wonder whether there is not some misunderstanding between us. It is our policy that Army patrols which are likely to have direct contact with the public should have a police presence with them. But some Army operations such as surveillance, especially when conducted in the border areas, do not involve significant contact with the public and it would be wasteful of police manpower to insist on a RUC presence in every such case. If an Army unit engaged in an operation of this kind needs to alert the Garda to suspicious activity or to a direct terrorist threat (on either side of the border) the time it

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would take to send a signal to the Garda via the RUC could easily give the terrorist enough time to commit a crime and/or leave the area without being caught. It would certainly take longer than "seconds". I urge you to look again at this problem.

It is important that the arrangements for extradition between our two countries should work effectively, and be seen to do so. I therefore welcome your commitment to consider carefully our proposals for changes in your legislation on extradition. Our Attorney General has made it clear that he will look at each case on its merits, to consider whether extradition or use of extraterritorial procedures is the better approach.

I repudiate very strongly the assertion that Patrick Ryan would not receive a fair trial before a jury in England. I can only say that it was a major setback when his extradition was blocked on grounds not identified in your Extradition Acts, and of which we had not previously been aware.

I read your Party Conference speech and welcome what you had to say about the appalling nature of violence in Northern Ireland. There are other points which you will realise I cannot agree with at all (and cannot easily be reconciled with the Anglo-Irish Agreement).

Yours ever
Rangar

Mr. Charles Haughey, T.D.