



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

cc FCO
29 July 1986

Dear Prime Minister,

I wanted you to know how much I and my colleagues welcomed the news of the arrest in Paris of the four INLA leaders a few days ago. The prompt and firm action of the French authorities both in this case and in last month's operations in le Havre is an immense encouragement to all those engaged in combating terrorism in Ireland and elsewhere. Please convey my warm thanks and congratulations to those most closely concerned in the operation.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Monsieur Jacques Chirac

EA



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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 July 1986

Dear Charles

Arrest of INLA Leaders in France

You will have seen press reports of the arrest in Paris of four INLA leaders early last week.

The arrests follow the detention of another four INLA activists and sympathisers by the French authorities, coupled with a seizure of weaponry, in le Havre in mid-June.

Following the le Havre arrests, the Prime Minister asked that her appreciation be conveyed to the French Minister of the Interior, M Pasqua. This was done through our Embassy in Paris. We recommend that the Prime Minister should now follow this up with a message to M Chirac. I enclose a draft message, which we would transmit by telegram if approved.

I am copying this letter to Stephen Boys-Smith and Jim Daniel.

Yours ever

(Signature)

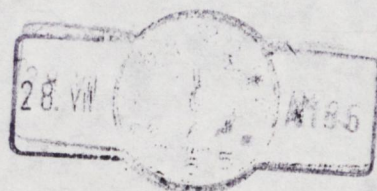
(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO M JACQUES CHIRAC

I wanted you to know how much I and my colleagues welcomed the news of the arrest in Paris of the four INLA leaders a few days ago. The prompt and firm action of the French authorities both in this case and in last month's operations in le Havre is ^{an immense encouragement} ~~[of invaluable assistance]~~ to all those engaged in combatting terrorism in Ireland and elsewhere. Please convey my warm thanks and congratulations to those most closely concerned in the operation.

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PRIME MINISTER

I took a call on your behalf this afternoon from Monsieur Chirac, the French Prime Minister. M. Chirac said he wanted to thank you personally for everything which you have done to help reach a solution

He knew that it had not been easy for you. But the help was very necessary, had been very discreet and effective and had been crucial in producing a solution. He was very grateful indeed to you.

I undertook to pass this on, saying that I knew you would be very gratified by his kind words and would look forward to a talk with him before long.

mt

C.D.P.

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(C. D. POWELL)

28 July 1986

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

16 June 1986

The Prime Minister was encouraged to learn of the recent find in France of arms destined for the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) and the arrest of two leading INLA members. She understands that the French were very helpful and that M. Pandraud, the Junior Minister in the French Ministry of the Interior with special responsibility for terrorism, played a key role.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the Embassy to pass a message to the French Minister of the Interior conveying the Prime Minister's appreciation.

Charles Powell

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq., CMG,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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