

PS/Secretary of State (B)  
17 June 1996

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B  
 PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B  
 PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B  
 PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
 PS/Sir David Fell - B  
 Mr Legge - B  
 Mr Thomas - B  
 Mr Bell - B  
 Mr Brooke - B  
 Mr Leach - B  
 Mr Steele - B  
 Mr Watkins - B  
 Mr Wood (B&L) - B  
 Mr Hill - B  
 Mr Beeton - B  
 Mrs Brown - B  
 Mr Cornick - B  
 Mr Maccabe - B  
 Mr Stephens - B  
 Ms Checksfield - B  
 Miss Harrison - B  
 Mr N Carson - B  
 Mr D Lavery - B  
 Mr Lamont, RID - B  
 HMA Dublin - B  
 Mr Cran - B  
 Mr Elletson - B  
 Lady Olga Maitland - B  
 Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B

**NOTE OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE AND  
 SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL ON SUNDAY 16 JUNE 1996**

The notes below are based on the Secretary of State's notes of the conversation.

The Secretary of State spoke to Senator Mitchell on the telephone at 0940 hours on Sunday. Senator Mitchell was depressed by the Manchester bombing and asked the Secretary of State if he thought the IRA would announce a ceasefire "tomorrow".

The Secretary of State said it was a possibility we had thought of in advance. HMG had always said it would deal with such an event in light of all circumstances. But the reality was HMG would have to say get lost. However we could intellectualise if the reality was that it was more than could be asked: we would be seen as very naive to still let them in.

F. Tolson

In response to the Secretary of State's question as to what he thought, Mitchell agreed. He said, however, that it was important not to respond by implying they would be kept out for good. The Secretary of State warmly agreed - and said that he thought Monday would be taken up with hours of 'How awful this is'. The Secretary of State took a different view: this was nothing new in principle.

Senator Mitchell agreed to meet at 0930. Mitchell sounded low. Mitchell and his team were meeting Sunday afternoon.

Statement by the Taoiseach, John Bruton TD.

(SIGNED)

*This statement by the IRA that their members were involved in the murder of Detective Garda Jerry McCabe and the wounding of Detective Garda Ben O'Sullivan, confirms what was already known, and does nothing to remove the loss, sorrow and grief of their families.*

ROBERT CRAWFORD

*the anger and revulsion of the people of Ireland over what happened. The cynical exercise of attempting to efface this admission of guilt with another bomb attack in Dublin will simply confirm the Irish people's utter rejection of the IRA. No real, irreversible step in the kind of settling and cannot be achieved by a cynical ploy by any form of so-called "strategy". Whether or not the IRA in its own terms "authorized" the savage attack in Adare, IRA men were used for the cold-blooded killing of Garda McCabe, just as IRA explosives would appear now to have been used for a bloody bombing in Manchester. Eoin Finn has agreed in principle with the Mitchell Report that these arms should be taken out of Irish politics forever. The pain and suffering of Garda McCabe's and Garda O'Sullivan's families, as well as that of the victims of the Manchester attack, cry out for an honest, not a cynical and hypocritical response from the Republican movement.*