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Minister of State

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Mrs Nora Owen TD
Minister for Justice
Department of Justice
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21st

June 1996

I was very pleased to hear of the successful Garda operation in County Laois. I should be very grateful if you would pass on my congratulations to Commissioner Culligan and the members of the Garda Siochana involved in this highly professional operation, which I understand has resulted in a number of arrests and a considerable find of bomb making equipment.

I am sure both you and the Garda Commissioner will have been gratified at this success, particularly coming so soon after the contemptible murder of Garda McCabe. The continuing activity of the Provisional IRA in both jurisdictions clearly indicates that republican terrorism represents as much of a threat to your democratic institutions as it does to ours.

I know that your Government shares our determination not to allow the scourge of terrorism to return, and actions such as this by the Garda are invaluable in helping to ensure that it will not.

THE RT HON SIR JOHN WHEELER DL MP
Minister of State for Northern Ireland