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1st September 1971

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of the 26th August concerning activities of the I. R. A. in the Twenty-six Counties. I fully appreciate your concern. When the provisional I. R. A. collections and publicity outside the G. P. O. were brought to my notice I immediately directed Garda action in the matter. In the meantime several summonses have been issued for unauthorised collections.

As a lawyer you will appreciate the difficulty in bringing a successful prosecution against persons advocating action by the "bullet and the bomb" in general as against doing so for a specific purpose and in a specific instance. However, in the case of Goulding I personally directed that whatever charges the law provided for should be brought in this case. I have already stated this publicly in Dáil Éireann. I will make inquiries about your complaint that the State did not seek independent sureties when a remand was being granted in this case.

I assure you that within the limits of what is legal and practicable the Government have every intention of enforcing the law and ensuring the safety of public and private property from illegal activities.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]