

US denies holiday visa to Tippi hurler

A TIPPY hurler has been refused a visa to travel with the county team to the US on Sunday — even though he is married to an American.

Hurler Paul Delaney is seeking a holiday visa from the US Embassy in Dublin before the team departs on Sunday for the holiday of a lifetime which includes a cruise to the Bahamas.

The holiday is being provided as a treat for the Tipperary hurlers for their victory in the 1991 All Ireland hurling final.

But, unless the US Embassy changes its mind at the last minute, Paul Delaney will not be travelling with his colleagues.

The Embassy has stated it will not grant a visa because Mr Delaney over-stayed on a previous trip to the US in July 1990 and persons who do so are refused future visas. There are no plans to review the case, a spokesman said.

But, the hurler explained yesterday, he had received a three-month visa in for the summer of 1990 and had decided to get married during that time.

He had become caught up in the marriage preparations and forgot to seek an extension of his visa, Mr Delaney said. But, he stressed, he had not worked in the US while there and had returned to Ireland with his Chicago-born wife in March 1991.

The US Authorities probably believe that he intends to stay in the US if allowed to return now, Mr Delaney said. He had no intention of doing so as he has a young daughter and the family live in Ireland.

"All I am looking for is a holiday visa," the player said.

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Slieve Gullion area gets 'outstanding beauty' tag

"THE King of Gullion in south Armagh has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."

Local councillors and members of voluntary bodies were present when the Permanent Secretary of the Department of the Environment, Mr John Murray presented the Guide to Designation to the Chairman of Newry and Mourne Council, Mr Andy Moffett.

"The area around Slieve Gullion is unique," said the DOE top official. "It has retained an air of mystery all its own. There is a wide range of wildlife habitats and a marvellous variety of colour provided by the heather, gorse, fields and lakes. Its character is also shown in its ancient monuments, and its stories and songs."

The Cabinet Papers

United Ireland would rejoin Commonwealth, said Dev

From Mary Carolan in Dublin

PEOPLE should not be surprised that the former Taoiseach and 1916 leader Eamon De Valera suggested that a united Ireland would rejoin the British Commonwealth if Northern Ireland abandoned its direct allegiance to the Crown, a historian declared yesterday.

John Bowman, author of *De Valera and the Ulster Question* and RTE presenter, was commenting on the 1961 Irish cabinet papers which have been opened to the public this week.

The papers revealed that in 1958 Taoiseach De Valera outlined the conditions to British Foreign Secretary Lord Hume under which a united Ireland would be prepared to rejoin the Commonwealth which would have Queen Elizabeth as its head.

This suggestion, according to Mr Bowman, was a

follow-on from the proposal for a form of external association with Britain, initially made by De Valera in the Treaty discussions of 1921.

But, as far as the unionists were concerned, it was "about the worst offer" Mr De Valera ever made, the historian stated. A united Ireland within the Commonwealth also had the right of exit from it and could have departed at any stage, he explained.

In his view, the British interest in it was probably more academic than serious, Mr Bowman said.

A similar proposal had been made a year earlier by Cardinal D'Alton, Primate of All-Ireland, in a newspaper interview and it was suggested at the time that the Cardinal would not have made such a proposal had it not been endorsed by certain political figures.

The proposal was referred to again three months later by the then Irish External Affairs Minister, Frank Aiken, who told Lord Home that the Republic would

only consider rejoining the Commonwealth under the leadership of Mr De Valera. But, after Eamon De Valera became President of Ireland in 1959, it appears the proposal was not pursued.

The Cabinet papers also include an account by the British Ambassador to Ireland, Sir Alexander Cluttbuck, of a visit with Frank Aiken in 1957 after Fianna Fail returned to power.

Mr Aiken was preoccupied with partition, according to the Ambassador who described the Irish Minister as "pleasant enough to meet but, being a Northerner by origin, feels all the more deeply on partition on that account."

The Ambassador said Mr Aiken had insisted that a British government minister should make a speech to the effect that a united Ireland would be in the interests of Britain.

Mr Cluttbuck said he had endeavoured to persuade Mr Aiken that this proposal was "wholly misguided".

A proposal was made to President Eamon De Valera that he might visit Armagh for the Patrician Year ceremonies in 1961, the Cabinet papers also disclose. The suggestion was examined by the then Taoiseach Sean Lemass who noted that the President was "personally disposed to concur".

Consent was given for the visit on February 24.

According to the Cabinet papers, the continuing presence of Admiral Horatio Nelson atop a pillar in O'Connell Street was the source of such controversy in 1961. It was suggested that Nelson be replaced by, among others, the executed 1916 leader Padraig Pearse or St Patrick.

However, the cost of replacing Nelson and the pillar was deemed too high and it was left to remain until the IRA took the matter into its own hands in 1966 and partly demolished the pillar, forcing its total demolition by Irish Army experts.

India gives best value for holidays, says survey

INDIA emerges as the world's cheapest holiday cost-of-living country in a major survey of top long-haul destinations published yesterday.

Egypt, Malaysia and Florida follow in the good value stakes. But some Caribbean islands can be four times as heavy on the pocket.

The survey, by holiday firm Thomas Cook, looked at the cost of a meal, a bottle of wine, water, a beer and a glass of cola in a shop and a hotel, as well as the price of a cup of coffee, sun-cream, a film, five postcards and stamps, 20 litres of petrol and a three-mile cab ride.

A three-course dinner in Malaysia could cost just £6, while a romantic meal in either St Lucia or the Seychelles would put a much larger hole in your pocket.

Curry connoisseurs can enjoy a meal for two in New Delhi for £9.60. A tube of suntan cream costs £2.50 in Malaysia but only 50p in India.

Travelling by taxi in India and Egypt is cheaper than going by bus in Britain — it is possible to reach the Pyramids from the centre of Cairo for less than £2.

Aer Lingus prices go up

AER LINGUS passengers will pay more to travel with the Republic's airline from Monday as fares go up by three per cent.

Increases of about six per cent on British Airways routes are also expected to be implemented shortly and fares to continental countries will rise by five per cent in April.

The announcement of the fare increase yesterday coincides with the disclosure that Aer Lingus sustained losses up to £50 million in its air transport division in 1991.

For the first time in ten years, the State airline is facing a group deficit as its ancillary operations have failed to bail out the loss-making air services sector.



Mr De Valera, who suggested a united Ireland rejoining the Commonwealth, with Cardinal Conway

Lemass 'a realist' according to Home Office note

A CONFIDENTIAL Home Office document prepared for the use of the Secretary of State, Mr RA Butler in July 1959, said the new Taoiseach Sean Lemass was a "realist" who had said in a recent speech that people in the Republic should give up talk of "anti-partition" and work instead towards "restoring national unity" by generating goodwill.

"So far as it goes," wrote an official, "this change of emphasis is welcome and no head of government in the Republic could be expected to go further."

The official noted that Captain O'Neill had described the Taoiseach's statement as "the old prescription with a new label which does not make it any more acceptable."

The young Minister of Finance had added that the people of the north preferred practical goodwill to exhortation and that "an exercise in goodwill would be a clear and definite statement of the Republican government's intention to suppress the campaign of violence."

On the other hand, the writer felt that Lord Brookeborough's Orange Day speech was "very moderate in the circumstances".



British mission thought partition line 'refreshing'

Stormont papers record welcome response to De Valera speech, writes Dr Eamon Phoenix

REGULAR reports of anti-partition speeches by Mr De Valera and other Irish politicians were forwarded to the British Home Office and then to Stormont from the British Ambassador in Dublin in the 1950s. This is revealed in confidential Cabinet files released by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Of particular interest to the Embassy was Mr De Valera's speech to the Fianna Fail Ard-Fheis in October 1954. The "Chief", then out of office, impressed on his audience, "Despite the part played in Partition by the Conservative Party and parliament at Westminster, the fact was that there were a number of people on Irish soil whose political outlook was different from the majority."

"The difficulty was that there was 'no indication whatsoever' that the majority in the Belfast corner were prepared to sit down with their southern fellow-countrymen and work out 'a solution'."

The former Taoiseach confirmed his 1921 suggestion that the north-east

might retain its local Parliament with "all the powers at present exercised" under the overriding authority of an all-Ireland parliament.

Mr De Valera went on to spell out his rejection of force as a means of achieving re-unification. His whole life showed that he had not been opposed to the use of force where force had a chance to achieve the object. He did not consider that force could properly solve the present problem.

This was not a view brought on by advancing age. He had always held it and the Republican Cabinet of 1921 had agreed with him.

"If the country were reunified by force the nation would be solid, and the Dublin government would have to govern the northern area by police methods such as they condemned when used by Stormont in nationalist areas. There was no use talking about simply getting rid of the British forces of occupation."

"He hoped that, however unpalatable, his advice on this matter would at least be considered. It was given with all the sincerity I could command." The British Ambassador could inform the Home Office that the speech was significant.

"It is important in his speech described to such an audience the facts of the situation so fully and fairly by

comparison with the picture commonly presented in the Republic, and in his evident concern about, and exhortation against, a trend towards the advocacy of force."

A few days later, however, on October 15, 1954, the Ambassador was less impressed by a speech by Liam Cosgrave, Minister for External Affairs in the Coalition government. The Minister, while endorsing the need for a propaganda campaign overseas, "declared vituperation...either against Britain or against fellow-Irishmen in Northern Ireland."

While the Ambassador welcomed this tone, he was critical of Mr Cosgrave's "claim that the Republic had a duty towards the nationalists in the North to protect them as far as possible against intimidation and victimisation" — namely by mobilising overseas opinion.

"This sort of thing is getting pretty close to the bone," he confided to London. "And I have considered whether to recommend that we should take some notice of it." In view, however, of the Minister's "helpful" remarks, he had decided to "let it go" for the present.

In his fortnightly summary, dated October 16, 1954, the Ambassador again welcomed Mr De Valera's speech on partition as "an appreciation of the problem refreshingly more realistic than that which is generally current."

Ministry analyses IRA border attacks

AMONG the many files released this week was a previously top secret memo on the IRA border campaign, drawn up by the Ministry of Home Affairs in July 1961.

The report states that since the end of 1956, when "Operation Harvest" was launched, five RUC members had been murdered, while three hundred other incidents of a serious nature had occurred. On the attitude of the civil population, the memo remarks that "the various sections of the community have remained calm, the campaign has evoked no reprisals and the subversive organisations have found themselves unable to enlist any worthwhile support."

The absence of reprisals with the possibility of widespread public disorder had been a serious setback to IRA plans, the memo remarked. Members of the government had on all occasions urged upon their supporters the need to exercise restraint in face of all attacks, however provocative, while prominent members of the minority had joined in publicly condemning the IRA and its methods.

Commenting on the effect of the campaign on the life of the community, the document continues: "The economic and social life of the community has remained largely unaffected. Factories have been built and new industries have been set up without any anxiety regarding internal stability."

On the attitude of the southern government, the Home Affairs document expresses the view that "energetic steps on the part of the Government in the Republic could have brought the campaign to a speedy end."

However, there had been useful unofficial, if limited, cooperation between the Garda and the RUC in some border areas and, in order to avoid placing this in jeopardy, the northern Government had been "very guarded in referring in public to the attitude of the Irish Government."

Sentences of imprisonment which had been imposed in the south had been very light, according to the memo, as charges were preferred at the lowest court which had very limited powers.

The document concluded that the IRA campaign was by no means at an end. "Recruitment and training continue and funds are still flowing from England and America."

Lay-offs at shipyard pose a political threat, Brookeborough tells Whitehall

Unionists slate journalist

A MEMO from the Ulster Office in London, dated August 1961, expressed concern at "a virulent attack on Ulster" in the *New Statesman* under the title "John Bull's Other Portugal".

According to the writer, "It had all the stamp of having been written by someone in Ulster."

"A few days later," the writer went on, "a somewhat similar article appeared in the *Tribune* from the pen of Andrew Boyd."

We can expect little praise from Boyd's pen, but the worst damage results not from outright attacks like his. It comes from the continual output of pessimistic reports by the Belfast correspondents of the general press of Great Britain."

Hare, British Minister of Labour, to discuss the unemployment situation. Mr Butler opened the discussion, declaring: "It was necessary to keep a proper perspective. Nineteen-sixty had been a

said the immediate problem was in the shipyard where 500 men were being laid off and the number of men that number would become redundant. The UK government, he stressed, would never tolerate 8.9 per cent unemployment in Great Britain and should take action to prevent the rate remaining at that level in Northern Ireland. More work must be provided by the financial measures suggested or by government orders.

Captain O'Neill supported the Prime Minister's emphasis on the political dangers of the situation.

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