

War: Irish American opinion 1597/1/29

BRITISH EMBASSY,

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WASHINGTON D.C.

No. 1078.

September 21st 1939.

My Lord,

A journalist friend of mine has had an interesting conversation with my Irish colleague.

Mr. Brennan said that as a result of a tour he has just been making he is convinced that the feeling of Irish-Americans is quite different from in 1914. Their sentiments are now pro-British and there is great resentment among them at the outrages committed by the Irish Republican Army. Thousands were ready to volunteer to fight against Hitler.

Mr. Brennan opined that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom might, as a result of the German submarine campaign find it necessary to insist on the use of harbours in Southern and Western Ireland for the British Navy. He felt that this would perhaps have an unfortunate result on Irish opinion. In his view the Statesmanlike course would be for His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to bend all their energies to promoting the unity of Eire with Northern Ireland, and thus obtain without any question the free use for the navy of all Irish ports.

3. I am, of course, well aware of the gulf which separates "Orange" from "Green" Ireland. And I should have thought that the beginnings of a movement of reconciliation might take the form of a joint

The Right Honourable

North/

The Viscount Halifax, K.G.,

etc., etc., etc.

L:VALM:MS

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North and South Ireland board for the discussion  
of war problems on the basis that neutrality was  
impossible for Ireland as a whole.

I have the honour to be,

with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

(SGD) LOTHIAN.