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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 May, 1984

Prime Minister.

A.J.C. 4/15

Dear John,

Libya

In your letter of 8 May you said that the Prime Minister had recently seen a reference to an incident in which Britain had captured a ship as it left Libyan waters carrying IRA trained terrorists, money and arms.

The only incident of this kind occurred on 28 March 1973 when the Irish Government arrested off the Irish coast a Cypriot coaster, The Claudia, owned by a West German arms smuggler. The ship had been kept under surveillance by British authorities since it left Libyan waters and we had tipped off the Irish government. The ship had been attempting to land 5 tons of weapons supplied by Libya including 250 Soviet rifles, mines, pistols, grenades, ammunition and explosives. The owner of the ship later suggested that the total cargo may have been about 100 tons but that most was thrown overboard. Joe Cahill was arrested on board.

Yours,

P F Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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