

DELEGATION PERMANENTE  
L'ÉTAT LIBRE D'IRLANDE  
AUPRÈS DE LA  
SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS



Airacht Gaeilge Oigriche  
SCÉANSAC ÉIREANN

FRITH  
22. MAR. 1933

29/19

*file with Mr. Geneva*  
*See Mr. Motta*  
*Mr. Motta*  
*27/3/33*  
*94*

43, QUAI WILSON  
GENÈVE

S.17/10

20th March, 1933

The Secretary  
Department of External Affairs,  
DUBLIN

With reference to your minute 29/19 of the 14th instant I note your instructions. I took no action other than that previously reported, but I might say that a few days later Mr. Motta, with whom I am on excellent terms, came up to me and said that the incident had been brought to his notice, that he had immediately telephoned to the Permanent Head of his Department at Berne who informed him that he knew nothing about what had happened. Mr. Motta said it was obviously a mistake by a subordinate official and very cordially assured me that if I wanted anything at any time he would see that it was done. I thanked Mr. Motta and said that, of course, the official's action had been absolutely correct and that I realized the Swiss Government's difficulties and that he might rest assured I would not take undue advantage of his very friendly attitude. It is my view that unless there were some matter in which you wanted to hold direct and confidential communication with the Swiss Government it would be well to use the ordinary channel. The way is always open here for a special case.

With regard to your suggestion that I should refer, if



necessary, to you for instructions would I not be right in interpreting this as giving me authority to inform casual inquirers that my mission is limited to the League of Nations and only to refer to you in case these circumstances in regard to time and importance seemed to me to justify this procedure. Any inquiries received, for example from Irish Firms with regard to trade questions I shall send immediately to you; local inquiries to be dealt with according to the best of my discretion.

the Minister  
 you have drawn  
 it would be  
 any action with  
 adopted by the  
 correct.

in please  
 Department.  
 it would be better  
 with the Federal  
 also not to  
 to.

*Sear Lester*

14th March 1933.

Sean Lester Esq,  
GENEVA.

With reference to your minute of the 22nd February (X.17/9), I am to state that the Minister was interested in the matter to which you have drawn attention, but he does not think that it would be opportune at the moment to take any action with regard to it, as the procedure adopted by the Swiss authorities was strictly correct.

In any matter of the kind in future please seek, if necessary, instructions from this Department. In the absence of such instructions it would be better not to communicate direct with the Federal Authorities. It might be better also not to mention the matter to M.Motta.

(Signed) J. P. WALSHE.

Secretary.



DELEGATION PERMANENTE  
DE L'ETAT LIBRE D'IRLANDE  
AUPRES DE LA  
SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS



saorstát éireann

Aireacht Gnothai Coigreacha

FRITH

24 FEB 1933

43, QUAI WILSON  
GENÈVE

February 22nd 1933

X.17/9

Uimh..... 29/19.....

29

*Leary, Sweeney & Ryan*

*Mr. Lester 27/2/33*

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
Dublin.

The Federal Government and the  
Permanent Delegation.

I received a short time ago an inquiry from some Irish people at Davos, asking me to clear up doubts felt by the Irish association there regarding the cost of the permis de séjour. As it was the Irish association I thought it well to try and get official information for them and wrote to the Political Department of Berne. I enclose a copy of my letter and a copy of the reply.

You will see that the reply was sent to the British Legation, "Monsieur Sean Lester n'étant pas accrédité auprès du Conseil Fédéral". I felt that this was rather a discourteous act, although of course probably strictly correct. I intended to mention the matter to Mr. Motta, but saw the Swiss official in charge of League affairs instead. He seemed to think it was entirely a mistake. I remarked that I had always received so much courtesy from the Federal Department that perhaps I had expected too much.

No doubt one of the principal reasons is the jealousy of Berne of the Diplomatic Corps at Geneva. I think, however, that the matter of the action of the Swiss Government should be brought to the Minister's attention for various reasons.

Enclosure:-

*Sean Lester*

Copy of letter sent from Geneva Office to

Le 8 Février 1933.

Département Politique Fédéral,  
Division des Affaires Etrangères,  
BERNE.

Messieurs,

Je suis en possession d'une lettre d'un citoyen Irlandais habitant le Canton des Grisons, me demandant à partir de quel moment après l'arrivée dans le dit Canton les autorités suisses peuvent demander à examiner les passeports, et quel est le coût exact du permis de séjour.

Je vous serais obligé de vouloir bien me renseigner à ce sujet et de me donner tous autres renseignements utiles concernant les règlements relatifs au séjour des étrangers dans le Canton des Grisons.

Avec mes remerciements anticipés, je vous présente, Messieurs, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

(sg) Sean Lester.

Délégué Permanent.

COPY

DEPARTEMENT POLITIQUE FEDERAL  
DIVISION DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES.

B. 41.1.2. CR

Par la lettre du 8 de ce mois, dont la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique voudra bien trouver copie sous ce pli, la Délégation permanente de l'Etat libre d'Irlande auprès de la Société des Nations exprimait au Département Politique Fédéral le désir d'être renseignée sur les prescriptions relatives au séjour des étrangers dans le Canton des Grisons.

Le Département Politique prend la liberté de communiquer, en réponse, à la Légation de La Majesté, Monsieur Sean Lester n'étant pas accrédité auprès du Conseil fédéral, les indications suivantes.

A leur arrivée dans le Canton des Grisons, les étrangers doivent s'annoncer à l'autorité locale compétente, dans les 8 jours s'ils viennent prendre un emploi, et en tout cas avant de commencer leur travail, dans les 3 mois en ce qui concerne les touristes. Il est perçu par le Canton un émolument de 2 francs pour les personnes exerçant une activité lucrative et de 5 francs pour les personnes n'exerçant pas d'activité lucrative. Les Communes prélèvent, de leur côté, des taxes, qui varient suivant les Communes, la durée du séjour et selon qu'il s'agit de personnes gagnant ou non leur vie.

Le Département saisit cette occasion de renouveler à la Légation l'assurance de sa haute considération.

Berne, le 14 février 1953.

A la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique,

BERNE.