

Cork City and County Archives

Descriptive List

Identity Statement Area

Reference Code: IE CCCA/U140

Title: Sinn Fein Meeting Macroom Royal Irish Constabulary File

Dates: May 1919, August-October 1919

Level of description: File

Extent: 1 file of 45 items in 6 parts

Context

Creator(s)

Royal Irish Constabulary / Sinn Féin

Archival History

Deposited in the Archives by Pdraig Ó Maidín, Cork County Librarian, in 1973.

Biographical / Administrative History

The Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) was a paramilitary police force, founded in 1836 and centrally controlled from Dublin Castle. The force was widely dispersed in barracks throughout the country except for Dublin which had its own force. In 1922, the RIC was disbanded and replaced by the Garda Síochana in the 26 counties and the Royal Ulster Constabulary in northern Ireland.

Sinn Féin was a political party founded in 1905 by Arthur Griffith and others, including William Cosgrave, Bulmer Hobson, and Sean T.O'Kelly. It gained support due to an anti-conscription policy during WW1, and following the execution of the leaders of the 1916 Rising. Successful in the 1918 British general election, securing 73 out of 105 MP seats in Ireland. Established in power with first Dáil Éireann in January 1919. Party split in 1921, due to Anglo Irish Treaty. Majority Pro-Treaty part became Cumann na nGaedheal, and the remainder retained the name Sinn Fein, whose military forces fought against the new Free State in the bitter Civil War from June 1922 to April 1923.

Terence MacSwiney (b.1879) republican politician and Lord Mayor of Cork, also Commanding Officer of Cork No.1 Brigade, Irish Volunteers. Became Lord Mayor of

Cork following the murder of Lord Mayor Tomás MacCurtain. Died at Brixton Prison, London in 1920.

Daniel Corkery of Macroom, County Cork was an Irish politician and officer in the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Corkery was one of the main IRA officers during the Coolavokig Ambush in February 1921. At the 1921 elections he was elected unopposed to the Second Dáil as a Sinn Féin Teachta Dála (TD) for the Cork Mid, North, South, South East and West constituency. An anti-Treaty member from January 1922. Joined the Fianna Fáil party and took a TD seat in 1927 and 1933. In 1938 he was elected to the revived Seanad Éireann and continued as a Senator until 1948.

Content and Structure

Scope and Content

File, originally entitled 'Reports and Seized Documents Sinn Fein Meeting, Macroom, October 1919'. Sent to Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin Castle, by the Royal Irish Constabulary, concerning a Sinn Fein meeting held in Macroom on 5 October 1919. The Sinn Fein meeting was attended by T.J. McSweeney (Terence MacSwiney) MP, Daniel Corkery, Denis Lynch, Patrick O'Connor, John Kelleher, John Healy, Patrick O'Donoghue, Jeremiah Leahy and Michael Kelleher, and it may have concerned the raising of the Dáil Éireann loan.

File is divided into 6 original parts, which have been maintained.

Part 1 contains reports by RIC personnel such as U104/1/1, minute by the RIC Inspector general, Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin, enclosing list of men attending the Sinn Fein meeting and advising '...that these men should be prosecuted under Section 7 and 2 (3) (a) of the Crime Act 1887 for taking part in an unlawful assembly.'

Parts 2 to 6 contain papers seized from some of those present at the meeting, or found at the meeting place, with reports and indices of same; such as U104/2/4, Seized item marked 'A1', notebook of Terence McSweeney, containing notes on Sinn Fein and republicans in mid-Cork/Macroom area; and such as U104/3/5, seized item marked 'B2', letter, in Irish, from Secretary of Sinn Fein Mid Cork constituency office, Macroom, concerning Dáil Éireann Internal Loan 1919; and such as, U104/3/16 seized item marked 'B13', letter from Michael Collins, Minister for Finance, Dáil Éireann, Dublin, to Terence MacSwiney T.D. 4 Belgrave Place, Cork, '...You will forgive my not replying sooner, but I have been extremely rushed as a result of raids and seizures of correspondence...the Head Office seems to be the only place no documents were got...'

The present collection is of interest to the study of intelligence gathering by the RIC on republican activists and organisations during the War of Independence, specifically the Sinn Féin local branch network which was used, as seen in the present collection, as a base to raise funds to maintain the fledgling Dáil Éireann. The items seized by the RIC are also of interest to the study of the republicans' day to day activities and methods of organisation.

System of Arrangement

The original 6-part order on the file has been maintained.

Part 1 : Reports by Royal Irish Constabulary Officers (7 items)

Part 2 : Items Found on Terence MacSweeney MP (5 items)

Part 3 : Papers Found on Daniel Corkery (22 items)

Part 4 : Papers Found on Patrick O'Donoghue (3 items)

Part 5 : Papers found in the Sinn Fein Hall, Macroom (3 Items)

Part 6 : Papers Found on Patrick O'Connor (5 items)

Allied Materials

CCCA:

Terence MacSwiney Papers PR4

Mid-Cork Republican Court Register SM84

Elsewhere:

Sinn Fein, Dáil Éireann and Irish Volunteer Material in U.C.D. Archives

Dáil Éireann archive, National Archives of Ireland

Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers, National Archives of Ireland

Conditions of Access and Use

Access: Open by appointment to those holding a current readers ticket..

Language: English and Irish (Gaelic)

Finding Aid: Descriptive List

Archivists Note

Brian McGee

Archivist, Cork City & County Archives

December 2009

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List of Items

Part 1 : Reports by Royal Irish Constabulary Officers (7 items)

1/1. 18 October 1919

Minute from R.I.C Inspector General, Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin, enclosing list of men attending Sinn Fein meeting at Macroom on 5 October 1919. 'His Excellency [the Chief Secretary] is advised that these men should be prosecuted under Section 7 and 2 (3) (a) of the Crime Act 1887 for taking part in an unlawful assembly.'

1p

1/2. 22 October 1919

Summary of evidence against 9 people regarding unlawful assembly at Macroom on 5 October 1919. Gives name, address, age, character, by whom identified and evidence in support of charge. Such as, T.J. McSweeney MP (Terence MacSwiney), aged 25 years, schoolteacher, 'This man is an extremist. He has been deported & interned three times...'

1p

1/3 12 October 1919

Memorandum from J.W. Illard, Royal Irish Constabulary, County Inspectors Office, Bandon. Headed 'Crime Special'. Concerns meeting of Sinn Fein leaders in Macroom. He submits annexed reports regarding the Meeting, together with seized documents, indicating meeting concerned the Republican Loan. Mentions note book of T.J. McSweeney M.P. (Terence MacSwiney) (See also U104/2/4) which 'shows that this man is currently mixed up in Irish Volunteer matters'. McSweeney was searched previously and was found with receipts for affiliation to the Irish Volunteer Companies. Minute in margin addressed to 'Under Secretary' mentioning 'clear case against T.J. McSweeney'.

2pp

1/4 6 October 1919

Reports on Sinn Fein Meeting in Macroom for organising Dáil Éireann Loan. From T. Dolan, District Inspector, R.I.C. submitting reports of James Sugrue, Constable and other Macroom police. 'It is apparent from the documents found that the meeting was formed to outline the scheme for collection of Dail Erin loan

in the Constituency...It is a good thing that the papers captured give us an outline of the Scheme...’.

2pp

1/5 6 October 1919

Report of Head Constable Sugrue, Macroom, under Criminal Law and Procedure Ireland Act 1887 and Proclamation of 10 September 1919’. Concerns raid on Sinn Fein Meeting at Macroom on Sunday 5 October 1919. Gives names, ages, addresses and occupations of those seated in the hall at Macroom, including T.J. McSweeney MP, Daniel Corkery, Denis Lynch, Patrick O’Connor, John Kelleher, John Healy, Patrick O’Donoghue, Jeremiah Leahy and Michael Kelleher. He searched these persons and seized documents. He has had the Sinn Fein hall watched and movements of all Sinn Feiners under close observation.

2pp

1/6 6 October 1919

Report by M. Feehy, Sergeant, concerning operation at Sinn Fein Meeting at Macroom, Lists persons assembled and notes papers found and handed over to Head Constable Sugrue.

1p

1/7 6 October 1919

Report by Constable Michael Dillon concerning raid on Sinn Fein Meeting at Macroom on 5 October 1919.

1p

Part 2 : Items Found on Terence MacSweeney MP (5 items)

2/1 6 October 1919

Reports by Head Constable Sugrue and District Inspector T. Dolan on papers found on T.J McSweeney MP at Macroom on 5 October 1919. Dolan makes particular reference to the information in the seized notebook.

2pp

2/2 6 October 1919

Index of papers, marked 'A', found on T.J. McSweeney MP at Macroom on 5 October 1919.

1p

2/3 6 October 1919

Translation of document found on T.J McSweeney at Macroom, concerning 1919 Dáil Éireann Loan (See U104/2/5)

1p

2/4 19 October 1919

Seized item marked 'A I'. Notebook of Terence McSweeney containing notes on Sinn Fein and republicans in mid-Cork/Macroom area.

1 item

2/5 August 1919

Seized item marked 'A II'. Pamphlet 'The Government of the Irish Republic Internal Loan 1919'. 'Subscribe liberally to the Irish National Loan and you will help to secure the Independence and Integrity of Ireland...The Revival of Irish industries...The re-occupancy of untenanted lands...The keeping of emigration in check...PLEDGE your faith in the FUTURE of the Irish Republic'. Also section in Gaelic giving the names of the Trustees, Rev. Dr. Michael Fogarty Bishop of Limerick, Arthur Griffith T.D. and James O'Meara T.D., and a list of the ways in which the loan will help the cause of Dáil Éireann (translation U104/2/3).

2pp

Part 3 : Papers Found on Daniel Corkery (22 items)

3/1 6 October 1919

Report on Papers found on Daniel Corkery when searched at Macroom on 5 October 1919 by Head Constable Sugrue and District Inspector T. Dolan. Dolan notes the importance of the list of the names of the Secretaries of the local Sinn Fein groups (U104/3/11), whose homes are being searched.

1p

3/2 6 October 1919

Index to 19 papers, marked 'B', found on Daniel Corkery, at Macroom, 5 October 1919.

1p

3/3 October 1919

Translation of seized letter (U104/3/5). From 'Confidential Person of the Local Council', to 'Friend'. Headed Government of Free Ireland 1919 Credit Loan for Ireland, Mid Cork Club, Macroom. 'Conferences were held in each parish in Mid Cork to encourage our people to gain the freedom of their country. Ambassadors will call on you next week requesting your assistance...'

1p

3/4 October 1919

Seized item marked 'B1'. Draft letter, in Gaelic, headed 'Riaghaltas Saorstat Éireann Iaracht 1919 i nEirinn. Ceanntair Lár Corcaige, Maghcromtha, Deireadh Fomhair 1919. Mentions Sean O'Nuallain. (Draft of U104/3/5).

2pp

3/5 October 1919

Seized item marked 'B2'. Letter, in Gaelic, from Secretary of Sinn Fein Mid Cork constituency office, Macroom, concerning Dáil Éireann Internal Loan 1919. (See translation at U104/3/3)

1p

U104/

3/6 October 1919

Seized item marked 'B3'. 'Points about' the Government of the Irish Republic Dáil Éireann Loan, 1919 such as '1. This is a loan and will be repaid with 5% interest per annum'.

1p

3/7 October 1919

'Points about' Dáil Éireann Loan 1919, such as '1. This loan is issued to the public by Dáil Éireann as the properly elected government of the Irish people...6. the first dividend will not be paid till six months after the International Recognition of the Irish Republic...'

1p

3/8 c.October 1919

Seized item marked 'B4'. Notes on 'Why You Should Invest in Dáil Éireann Loan'. Gives 6 points such as '1. Because its object is to restore Ireland to freedom and strength'.

1p

3/9 16 September 1919

Seized item marked 'B5'. Letter from P.L. O'Caomh, Coachford, to Mr. T.J. McSwiney T.D.E. (Terence McSwiney). 'There are so many weighty and momentous issues devolving upon the shoulders of our Noble and self sacrificing leaders at the Present moment that I am loth to trouble you with my own Troubles which must seem insignificant...'. He relates the circumstances of his suspension from the Aghabullogue Sinn Fein Club due to his taking action in the Courts against a pair of drunken anti-Sinn Fein Blackguards who assaulted and violently abused me...'. Explains his involvement in Sinn Fein and the Volunteers in Coachford and his gaoling by a 'Brace of RMs (Resident Magistrates) in Tipperary'. He wants to put himself right with those whom he must respect.

2pp

3/10 August 1919

Seized item marked 'B6'. Rough sketch map of approximate divisions of areas in North West Cork by Seamus O'Donoghue. Millstreet-Grenagh at North, Inchigeela-Ballincollig in South and Macroom – Blarney in centre.

1 item

3/11 August-October 1919

Seized item marked 'B7'. List of Clubs in the Mid Cork Comhairle Ceanntair in alphabetical order with note at top to 'Kindly check same carefully and let me know by return is there are any errors or omissions as it is important to have a complete list at headquarters...'. List shows Cumann location, Secretary's Name and Address, Affiliation and Members Fees, such as 'Aghabullogue, John Lynch Clonmoyle Mills Coachford, Paid 1919'. Lists also Clondrohid, Aghadillane, Ballinagree, Ballyvourney, Ballingearry, Berrings, Blarney, Cloghroe, Coolea, Corriganima, Courtbrack, Donoghmore, Grenagh, Inchigeela, Kilcorney, Kilnamartra, Macroom, Millstreet, Ovens, Rathduane, Rylane and South Killmurry.

1p

3/12 27 September 1919

Seized item marked 'B8'. Printed handbill, from Michael Collins, Aire Airgid (Minister for Finance), Dáil Éireann. Concerns instructions regarding Dáil Éireann correspondence. 'The British Authorities are apparently privately seizing correspondence addressed to Dáil Éireann. When writing, therefore, address your letters to the individuals concerned and refrain from mentioning Dáil Éireann.' Also suggests using an inner envelope sent to a trusted friend in Dublin for delivery by hand.

1p

3/13 5 August 1919

Seized item marked 'B9' and 'B12'. Letter, typescript, from Michael Collins, Minister for Finance, Dáil Éireann, 6 Harcourt Street Dublin, to Terence Mac Swiney, T.D., Corcaigh Meadh (Mid Cork). Regards the arrangement for a meeting by each T.D. with the most prominent supporters of Sinn Fein in their Constituencies with a view to forming a central committee for the entire constituency and certain local committees and the advancement of the Dáil Éireann Loan. Specially requests 'your loyal co-operation'.

2pp

3/14 30 September 1919

Seized item marked 'B10'. Circular letter from Michael Collins, Minister for Finance, Dáil Éireann, to each Member of Dáil Éireann, regarding the Dáil

Éireann Loan, enclosing copy of the general circular and requesting names of likely subscribers. 'Every day our best and keenest supporters are emphasising the vital importance of making the loan a huge success...'

1p

3/15 1919

Seized item marked 'B11'. Printed note concerning sending of replies to Mr. Michael Collins, 6 Harcourt Street or 32 Bachelor's Walk.

1p

3/16 25 September 1919

Seized item marked 'B13'. Letter from Michael Collins, Minister for Finance, Dáil Éireann, Dublin, to Terence MacSwiney T.D. 4 Belgrave Place Cork. Thanks MacSwiney for his letter. 'You will forgive my not replying sooner, but I have been extremely rushed as a result of raids and seizures of correspondence...the Head Office seems to be the only place no documents were got'. Collins says it is possible to lodge money but desirable to make drafts etc. payable to an individual Trustee. Notes MacSwiney's report of his meeting 'in the circumstances I think it was very satisfactory...'

1p

3/17 October 1919

Seized item marked 'B14'. Notice/handbill regarding Dáil Éireann Bonds. 'RECOVER IRELAND FOR THE IRISH... YOU CAN RESTORE IRELAND'S HEALTH, HER STRENGTH, HER BEAUTY, AND HER WEALTH...'

1 item

3/18 Seized item marked 'B15'. Notice/handbill regarding the issue of £250,000 5% Registered Certificates. Names Trustees. 'Get a copy of the Prospectus from your Member of the Dail...The Military forces of England have banned the 'Cork Examiner' for publishing the prospectus of the Dáil Éireann Loan...England does not want the Irish people to hear of the loan...'

1 item

3/19 October 1919

Seized item marked 'B16'. Leaflet relating to the Government of the Irish Republic Internal Loan 1919', requesting investment, with note on rear.

U104/

1p

3/20 August-October 1919

Seized item marked 'B17'. Prospectus with Application Form for the Government of the Irish Republic issue of £250,000 5% Registered Certificates. 'The proceeds of this loan will be used for propagating the Irish case all over the World...'. Notice from Eamonn DeValera, President and Michael Collins, Minister of Finance. Text also in Gaelic.

3pp

3/21 5 October 1919

Seized item marked 'B18'. Note, illegible, possibly in Gaelic.

1pp

3/22 6 May 1919 & 26 September 1919

Seized items marked 'B19'. Envelopes addressed to Terence Mac Swiney, T.D., 4 Belgrave Place, Cork.

2 items

Part 4 : Papers Found on Patrick O'Donoghue (3 items)

4/1 6 October 1919

Report by T. Dolan, District Inspector, on papers found on Patrick O'Donoghue at Sinn Fein meeting at Macroom on 5 October 1919. 'the Writer of the attached letter lived in Macroom and has an empty house there yet...His printing press was seized here about 12 months ago...'. Reports that the houses of those named in the letter have been searched.

2pp

4/2 6 October 1919

Index to papers marked 'C', found on Patrick O'Donoghue of Coachford.

1pp

4/3 30 September 1919

Seized item marked 'C I'. Letter from Mathew Doyle, Killarney Printing Works, College Street, Killarney to Patrick O'Donoghue. 'I feel very grateful for your order of 10,000 leaflets re International Loan...'. The Gaelic teachers are making out the script in English until Irish type arrives in 3 weeks. Gives list of names for further circulation in Millstreet, Macroom, Ovens, Blarney and Kilnamartra (names include Crowley, Kelleher, Murray and Sheehan). He has had no word 're machinery etc' taken since the works was suppressed 10 months ago. Asks O'Donoghue to write to Mr. McSwiney for a loan of £35 or £40 as he had to sell his stock. Pledges to 'give you all assistance I can in working of the movement at all times'.

1pp

Part 5 : Papers found in the Sinn Fein Hall, Macroom (3 Items)

5/1 6 October 1919

Report on papers found in the Sinn Fein Hall, Macroom, 5 October 1919, from Head Constable Sugrue, enclosing papers found on seat on which men had been sitting and not being in the possession of any of the men in the Hall.

1p

5/2 6 October 1919

Index to papers marked 'D', found at Sinn Fein Hall, Macroom.

1p

5/3 1919

Seized item marked 'D I'. Dáil Éireann Department of Finance, notice from Arthur Griffith, Acting President, and Michael Collins, Aire Airgid (Minister of Finance), 'to the people of Ireland'. Concerns the first National Loan. Appeals for support 'to those who created, and to all who support, Dáil Éireann, to Labour individually and collectively to make this first National Loan immediately successful'. Describes the uses to which the loan will be put.

1p

Part 6 : Papers Found on Patrick O'Connor (5 items)

6/1/ 6 October 1919

Report on papers found on Patrick O'Connor, Macroom on 5 October 1919.

1p

6/2/ 6 October 1919

Index to papers, marked 'E' found on Patrick O'Connor, Macroom.

1p

6/3/ 28 September 1919

Seized item marked 'E I'. Letter from Pdraig Ua Chonchubhar and Patrick O'Connor, New Street, Macroom, to all masters and secretaries of hunt clubs in Mid-Cork. He has been instructed by Mid-Cork Sinn Fein Executive to inform hunt masters that Francis Horgan will not be allowed to follow any pack of hounds in Mid Cork in future. Asks master to inform Horgan of the decision.

1p

6/4/ 17 September 1919

Seized item marked 'E II'. Circular letter from T. Kelly and H. Sheehy Skeffington, Honorary Secretaries of Sinn Fein, 6 Harcourt Street, Dublin, to 'all Secretaries of Comhairli Ceanntair'. Concerns best answer to the 'present attempt to destroy the Movement' by having the Ard Fheis 'the largest and most representative yet held'. Requests that this be 'communicated to your Cumainn at once'. Mentions nominations and resolutions.

1p

6/5/ 4 September 1919

Seized item marked 'E III'. Circular letter from Pdraig O'Donnchadha and Pdraig O'Connchubhair, Honorary Secretaries, Sinn Fein Headquarters, Macroom, to 'Dear Sir or Madam' (constituents of Mid Cork). Entitled 'Government of the Irish Republic Internal Loan 1919'. Invites people to a meeting at Town Hall, Macroom on 14 September 1919 at which Terence MacSwiney will preside.

1p

U104/