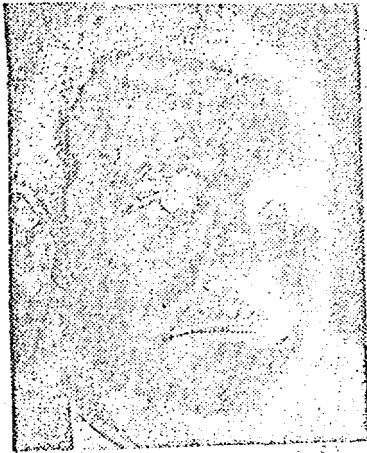


By ROBIN ADAMS SLOAN

Q. Has the CIA gotten involved in the Irish problem? They seem to be meddling in every other place in the world.—G. W., Chicago, Ill.

A. We can't prove it, but Irish leaders suspect the CIA is spying on the Irish Republican Army. A man named Scott Fitzwalter has been in Ireland posing as a novelist. He got the IRA to allow him to tape interviews and went with them on a mission to Ulster. The IRA became suspicious when Fitzwalter was seen with a U.S. embassy staffer. When they checked, no American novelist by this name could be located. When four armed IRA men went to question the so-called author, he had flown the coop.

28 Aug 1970



PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Proinsias Mac Aonghusa

In the United States

✓ The Central Intelligence Agency's operation in Ireland has increased considerably in recent months and will be expanded still further in the coming weeks. It is still small and not much money is being spent on it but its reports are said to be attracting more interest in Washington than formerly the case.

✓ The reason for the change is, of course, the disturbed state of the country and the possibility of violent changes in the structure of Government and society. By chance (I think) I have seen documents giving certain information about the Irish operation and naming some names. It appears that the principal C.I.A. man in Ireland is not attached to the Embassy at Ballsbridge but is a former U.S. diplomat well known in Dublin society. He stood me lunch once and I often wondered why; now, I know.

One very active agent is connected with academic life in the States and in Ireland and travels frequently between both countries. He keeps a close eye on the Universities and provides the most detailed information about professors and lecturers. Some may be amused to find that those interested in Ireland in Washington consider the staff at University College, Dublin, to be more revolutionary-minded and more dangerous to the status quo than the Trinity faculty. This agent is also in touch with student bodies and student thought in Ireland but his main mission is to keep an eye on teachers.

All this does not mean that the U.S. plans any assault on Ireland or proposes to intervene in the event of revolution. Washington simply wants to be accurately informed of all that goes on and to have that information intelligently evaluated. I have the names of only a handful of C.I.A. agents and regular contacts in Ireland but if they are all of the same impressive calibre Washington is getting good value for its money and it really knows what is going on here.