JIM,

HERE IS SOUT. MEMO EXPLAINING PRESIDENT DE VALERA'S REFUSAL TO MEET ALI.

Dave

Iarratas ar Chuairt ar an Uachtarán ó Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay)

1. Le linn do Muhammad Ali a bheith anseo le haghaidh coimhlint dornálaíochta le déanaí, dúirt an Teachta ó Conchubhair, (Ciarraí Theas) leis an Rúnaí Pearsanta ar an teileafón gur mhian le tionscnóirí na hócáide a mbeidh Al ('Blue') Lewis ag dornálaíocht leis go bhfaighfeadh Muhammad Ali deis cuairt a thabhairt ar an Uachtarán. Mhol mé don Rúnaí Pearsanta a rá leo nárbh fhéidir a shocrú.

Cé go bhfuil dea-chuspóir leis an taispeántas i bPáirc an Chrócaigh, .i. cabhair airgid a sholáthar do chás leanaí a bhfuil ceataí meabhrach orthu, ní shílim gur chóir fear bladhmannach mar Ali a bheith ag teacht chun an Uachtaráin go háirithe tar éis a ndúirt sé faoina chuairt agus go háirithe a chuairt ar an Taoiseach (cf sleachta as na páipéir nuachta faoi dhátaí 12/7/'72 agus 13/7/'72 leis seo).

2. Cúpla lá ina dhiaidh sin bhlaoigh an Teachta Clinton, Co. Áth Cliath, ag iarraidh an rud céanna ach dúirt an Rúnaí Pearsanta leis "that an tUachtarán would be unable to receive Mr. Ali within the dates on which the latter would be in Ireland and on which it is understood he would be available".

3. Ní dheachthas níos faide leis an scéal, ach má bhíonn Muhammad Ali ag iarraidh coinne arís, níor mhór a bheith cúramach faoi ghéilleadh dó.

24. 7. '72

1. When Muhammad Ali was here during the recent boxing match the TD O'Connor (Kerry South) said to the Personal Secretary on the phone that the organizers of the event, when Al "Blue" Lewis will box against Muhammad Ali, that Muhammad Ali would like to pay a visit to the President. I suggested to the private secretary that this could not be organized.

Even though the event at Croke Park is being held for a good cause, to raise money for children with mental health problems, I don't think that a bombastic man like Ali should be brought before the President, especially after what he said about this visit and his visit to the Taoiseach (see newspaper articles from 12/7/ 1972 and 13/7/1972 enclosed).

2. A few days later TD Clinton of County Dublin tried to do the same thing but the private secretary told him that "An tUachtarán (The President) would be unable to receive Mr. Ali within the dates on which the latter would be in Ireland, and on which it is understood he would be available".

3. I did not pursue the matter any further but if Muhammad Ali ever wants an invitation again, we should be careful in giving in to him.