**CASEMENT MENTIONS IN ORAL DÁIL ÉIREANN ANSWERS 1935-1983**

**1935 Dec. 5 (vol. 59)**

Mr Norton asked the President whether he is aware of the widespread desire on the part of the public that steps would be taken officially to secure the removal to Ireland of the remains of Roger Casement for re-interment in this country; whether he is aware that unless action is taken promptly for this purpose the opportunity may not arise again; and whether he is in a position to state if any action on the lines indic­ated will be taken by the Government.

The President: I am aware of the general desire that the remains of Roger Casement should rest in his own country, a desire which is fully shared by the members of the Government. On hearing the report of the intention to demolish Pentonville Prison (which, I assume, is the opportunity referred to by the Deputy) I made certain enquiries and took certain steps. I can assure the Deputy that the Government will avail of any opportunity that may arise to secure the repatriation of the remains of Roger Casement.

Mr Norton: Will the President say whether it has been conveyed to the British Govern­ment that the Government here specially desire that these remains should be brought home for re-interment here?

The President: I do not think I can add anything further to what I have said at this moment.

**1936 Feb. 5 (vol. 60)**

Mr Norton asked the President whether his attention was directed to the announce­ment published in the *Irish Times* on December 17th last to the effect that an official of the British Dominions Office stated to newspaper representatives that his Depart­ment heard nothing of any application being made for permission to remove the remains of the late Roger Casement from the precincts of Pentonville Prison, London; whether in fact any application was made either officially or unofficially on behalf of any interest in this country to the British authorities for permission to re­move these remains for re-interment in Ireland; and, if so, whether he will indicate the outcome of such representations, and whether, if no such representations were made, he will now direct that formal application be made for the permission indicated.

The President: At the moment I can only refer the Deputy to the answer I gave to his question on December 5th. I hope, however, to be able to give him a definite reply if he repeats his question this day week.

**1936 Mar. 4 (vol. 60)**Mr Norton asked the President whether his attention was directed to the announce­ment published in the *Irish Times* on 17th December last to the effect that an official of the British Dominions Office stated to newspaper representatives that his Depart­ment heard nothing of any application being made for permission to remove the remains of the late Roger Casement from the precincts of Pentonville Prison, London; whether in fact any application was made either officially or unofficially on behalf of any interest in this country to the British authorities for permission to re­move these remains for re-interment in Ireland; and, if so, whether he will indicate the outcome of such representations, and whether, if no such representations were made he will now direct that formal application be made for the permission indicated.

The President: My attention was drawn to the announcement referred to in the question. Prior to the publication of that announcement, as I informed the Deputy on the 5th December last, I had made certain enquiries and taken certain steps with a view to the repatriation of the remains of Roger Casement. Subsequently, a formal request was made to the British Government. I regret to say that that request has been refused.

Mr MacDermot: Might I ask if any reasons were given for refusing?

The President: There were reasons given. The main reason was that it was the invariable custom not to interfere with graves.

Mr Norton: If the President can assure the British Government that a Christian burial will be afforded the remains in this country, will he take steps to reopen the matter with the British Government?

The President: I should very much like to reopen the matter, if I saw any hope what­ever of success.

Mr Norton: Will the President at least protest against the display of this spirit of vengeance towards the dead?

**1936 Apr. 2 (vol. 61)**

Mr Norton asked the President whether, when representations were made to the British Government in connection with the application for permission to remove the remains of Roger Casement from Pentonville prison for interment in Ireland, it was brought to their notice that, when similar applications were made by Great Britain to the Irish Government, permission was given them to remove to England the remains of British soldiers interred in this country.

The Vice-President: The removal to England of the remains of British soldiers was not referred to in the request made to the British Government for the repatriation of the remains of Roger Casement. The request was based on the widespread desire which exists in this country, and is shared by the Government, that the remains should be transferred and interred in Ireland. The Government does not consider that any additional reason was required to support the application, or that any refer­ence to the transfer to England of the remains of British soldiers was necessary or would have been appropriate.

**1936 June 3 (vol. 62)**

Mr Everett (for Mr Norton) asked the President whether he is aware that a consider­able number of Irish people residing in England are of opinion that the remains of the late Roger Casement are not available for repatriation; and whether in order to allay apprehension he is prepared to cause enquiry to be made for the purpose of ascertaining if the remains are in a condition to be repatriated.

The President: I have reason to believe that the opinion referred to by the Deputy is held by many people in Ireland and by many Irish people in Great Britain. I have caused enquiries on the matter to be addressed to the British Government. I have been informed in reply that, so far as is known, there was no difference between the treatment of Roger Casement’s body and that of anyone else buried, as the law re­quires, within the walls of a prison. I do not know the precise implications of that statement, and I am endeavouring to obtain a more definite answer.

**1937 Feb. 17 (vol. 65)**

Mr MacDermot asked the President whether, in view of statements which have re­cently appeared in the public press, he will ask the British Government to submit the alleged Casement Diary, if still in existence, to joint examination by a represent­ative of the Government of the Irish Free State and a representative of the British Govern­ment and to publish their report as to its authenticity, and, if spurious, as to the poss­ibility of an honest mistake by those who made use of it.

The President: No, Sir. Roger Casement’s reputation is safe in the affections of the Irish people, the only people whose opinions mattered to him.

Mr MacDermot: In that case, will the President endeavour to dissuade the editorial officials of a certain newspaper, of which he is a director, from continuing their mischievous agitation and will he point out to them ...

An Ceann Comhairle (Frank Fahy): That is a separate question.

**1939 Mar. 1 (vol. 74)**Mr Norton asked the Taoiseach whether subsequent to the conclusion of the Anglo-Irish Agreement last year he renewed his efforts to secure the repatriation of the remains of Roger Casement for interment in Ireland, and if so, with what result; further, whether he is aware that plans are in progress for the demolition of Penton­ville Prison, and that if Roger Casement’s remains are not recovered and removed before the prison grounds are utilized for other purposes the opportunity will not recur.

The Taoiseach (Eamon de Valera): The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. We have repeated our representations. With regard to the second part of the question, the possibility of the demolition of Pentonville Prison has from the beginning been borne in mind. My latest information is that there is no likelihood of this demolition taking place for the next three or four years. Meantime, we shall not relax our efforts.

Mr Norton: Arising out of the answer, will the Taoiseach say whether in any com­munications received from the British Government they have indicated, even at this stage, any willingness to surrender the remains of Roger Casement for interment in this country?

The Taoiseach: I am afraid that I shall have to answer the Deputy in the negative.

Mr Norton: Do I understand from the Taoiseach that they have definitely declined to surrender the remains?

The Taoiseach: So far.

**1948 May 25 (vol. 110)**

Mr P.J. Burke asked the Minister for Defence whether he is aware that there are some members of the Roger Casement Brigade, I.R.A., in County Dublin who have not received any official recognition for services rendered in the brigade; and, if so, whether he will consider the introduction of legislation to enable such persons to obtain pensions.

Dr O’Higgins: I am aware that service in the Roger Casement Brigade, I.R.A., was not reckonable for purposes of pension under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934. I am, however, examining the position.

**1950 June 20 (vol. 121)**Mr P.S. Doyle asked the Minister for External Affairs whether he is aware that Penton­ville Prison is likely to be demolished soon and there is in consequence a danger that Roger Casement’s grave will be built over; and, if so, if he will make representations to the British Home Office with a view to having facilities granted for the bringing back of Roger Casement’s remains to Ireland for re-interment.

Minister for External Affairs (Seán MacBride): With regard to the first part of the Deputy’s question, I understand that Pentonville Prison is not likely to be demolished soon. I am informed that there are, at present, no plans for its demolition, and that apparently whatever plans were made in this connection some years ago have been shelved. With regard to obtaining facilities for bringing back to Ireland the remains of Roger Casement for re-interment here, the Deputy may be assured that this matter has not been lost sight of and that the Government will continue to do everything possible to this end.

**1951 Nov. 8 (vol. 127)**

Mr P.S. Doyle asked the Minister for External Affairs whether the British Government has yet indicated its willingness to agree to the frequently expressed desire of the Irish people in connection with the repatriation of the remains of Roger Casement; and, if so, whether he is in a position to state when steps will be taken to facilitate the bringing back of these remains to Ireland for re-interment.

Minister for External Affairs (Frank Aiken): The answer to the first part of the question, I regret to say, is in the negative.

**1953 Feb. 11 (vol. 136)**

Mr P.S. Doyle asked the Minister for External Affairs if he has made any request to the British Government since November 1951, for the repatriation of the remains of Roger Casement to Ireland; and, if so, with what result and if he will ascertain from the British Government the reasons for not acceding to the request.

Minister for External Affairs (Frank Aiken): The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. I regret to say that since the date of the Deputy’s last question there has been no indication of a change of attitude on the part of the British author­ities. I feel that at the present time no useful purpose would be served by en­deavour­ing to ascertain the reasons for this attitude.

**1953 June 9 (vol. 139)**Mr Doyle asked the Minister for External Affairs if he is aware that a statement has appeared in an English newspaper recently that the body of the late Roger Case­ment was not destroyed after his execution in Pentonville Jail in 1916; that the normal system of destruction of bodies at that time was not carried out in Case­ment’s case and that his remains are in a preserved state; and, if so, if he will have the necessary enquiries made from the British Home Office with a view to having that statement either confirmed or contradicted; and, further, if he will make represent­ations to have Casement’s body repatriated to Ireland.

Minister for External Affairs (Frank Aiken): I am aware of the newspaper statement to which the Deputy refers. According to information furnished by the British authorities there was no difference, so far as they know, between the treatment of Roger Case­ment’s body and that of anyone else buried, as their law requires, within the walls of a prison. As I stated in my reply to the Deputy’s question of February last, there has been no indication of a change of attitude on the part of the British authorities on the subject of the repatriation of Casement’s remains. I do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by making a formal approach in the matter at present.

Mr MacBride: The Minister referred to the requirements of the law in the matter. Is the Minister quite certain that there are any legal requirements in regard to matters of that kind? I do not think so. If that answer is given to him, possibly he might draw to the attention of the British Government the fact that there are no such requirements.

Mr Aiken: Our information is that there was a routine way of dealing with bodies buried within prison walls until 1926, and that after that it changed.

**1953 June 24 (vol. 139)**

Mr O’Leary asked the Minister for Defence if he will introduce proposals for legis­lation to entitle the survivors of the Casement Brigade to special allowances, as they are advancing in years, are few in number, and deserve compensation for their services.

Minister for Defence (Oscar Traynor): It is not proposed to introduce legislation in this regard.

Mr O’Leary: Twelve of these men took a great risk at the time with the Casement Brigade and got no recognition for their service rendered on behalf of this country. Captain Keogh was mentioned in a leading article which gave his life story and said that he is in Dublin. Some of his colleagues are here and in the Six Counties. They are all getting advanced in years and surely the Government ought to do something for these people by way of recognition of their heroism?

**1953 Oct. 27 (vol. 142)**Mr O. Flanagan asked the Taoiseach if he will state what recent representations, if any, have been made to the British Government with regard to the return to Ireland of the remains of the late Roger Casement, and if the Government has received important communications on the matter in recent weeks; and, if so, their nature.

Rúnai Párlaiminte an Taoisigh (Donnchadh Ó Briain) for the Taoiseach: Recently, when in London, I took the opportunity to repeat the request which I had made on previous occasions that the remains of Roger Casement should be returned to Ire­land in accordance with the wish expressed by him before his death. The matter was considered, but the reply which I have received indicates that the attitude of the British Government remains unchanged.

Mr O. Flanagan: Would the Taoiseach again, speaking in the name of the Irish people in this respect, make further representations to the British Government?

The Taoiseach (Eamon de Valera): The Deputy and the House know there is no need to urge me to do anything that can be done in the matter.

**1954 Oct. 27 (vol. 147)**

Mr S. Collins asked the Minister for Defence if he will state whether it is intended to introduce proposals for legislation to ensure that all members of the Roger Case­ment Brigade are included in the pensions code, and, if so, when.

General MacEoin: No such legislative proposals are contemplated.

**1955 May 31 (vol. 151)**

Mr Doyle asked the Minister for External Affairs whether he is aware that Pentonville Prison, in the grounds of which the remains of the late Roger Casement are interred, may soon be closed and demolished, and, if so, if he will make representations to the British Government in regard to the desirability of marking the spot where Case­ment’s remains lie.

Minister for External Affairs (Liam Cosgrave): My information is that the authorities concerned have no intention of closing or demolishing Pentonville Prison. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

**1955 Dec. 15 (vol. 153)**Mr Brady asked the Minister for Justice whether his attention has been directed to the publication in certain English newspapers, circulating in this country, of articles containing attacks on the personal character of Roger Casement, and, if so, if he will take action to prevent the circulation of such defamations in future, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Mr Keyes: Under the law as it stands I have no power to prohibit the importation of foreign newspapers which do not contravene the provisions of the Offences Against the State Act, 1939, though the importation of a newspaper which is usually or frequently obscene may be prohibited by the Censorship of Publications Board. Moreover, it would not be easy to frame an enactment to exclude foreign news­papers on other grounds which would not do more harm than good and interfere un­duly with the rights of the public to choose their own reading; though, if national senti­ment is to be affronted by scurrilous publications of the kind to which the Deputy has drawn attention, I will have to give the matter further consideration. Roger Casement’s reputation is in need of no defence from me and I will say no more than that the article in question has outraged public opinion not merely in Ireland but, as I believe, amongst fair-minded people in England as well.

Mr Brady asked the Minister for External Affairs whether he is aware that certain relics of Roger Casement are exhibited among the souvenirs of murderers and other criminals in the museum of Scotland Yard, London, and, if so, he will make repre­sent­ations to have them returned to Ireland and placed in the National Museum.

Minister for External Affairs (Liam Cosgrave): I am not aware that relics of Roger Case­ment are exhibited in the Museum of Scotland Yard, London, but I am having enquiries made.

**1956 May 1 (vol. 156)**

Mr A. Barry asked the Minister for External Affairs if he will repudiate the recent state­ment by a member of the British Government in the House of Commons that the matter of the Casement diaries was of interest only to a faction in Ireland.

Mr Cosgrave: I appreciate the Deputy’s indignation with regard to the statement to which he refers. The British Government can have no doubt as to the strong feeling of the Irish people as a whole on any matter touching Roger Casement who gave his life for the cause of Irish Freedom.

**1956 May 24 (vol. 157)**Mr Brady asked the Minister for External Affairs whether, in view of the recent state­ment by Mr Alfred Noyes concerning the so-called “Casement Diaries”, he will make representations to the British Government to have the documents examined by in­dependent experts; further, if he will ask the British Government to have the remains of Casement returned to Ireland.

Minister for External Affairs (Liam Cosgrave): I do not propose to make the repre­sent­ations suggested. The matter of the return of Casement’s remains is one of which the British Government is constantly kept aware.

Mr MacBride: I do not know whether my supplementary question arises out of this matter but I ask the indulgence of the Ceann Comhairle. Would the Minister make available to the Library a copy of the full text of Dr Noyes’ statement in regard to the matter?

Mr Cosgrave: I will consider that. I understand the letter was in the London *Times.*

Mr MacBride: I know, but we do not all get the London *Times.*

Mr Cosgrave: It is available to Deputies in the Library.

Mr MacBride: The Minister might be kind enough to get new copies and lay them in the Library.

**1956 May 29 (vol. 157)**

Mr P.S. Doyle asked the Minister for External Affairs whether he has seen a report that the British Home Office had long ago succeeded in persuading the Irish Govern­ment that the “Casement Diaries” were genuine, and, if so, if he will make a state­ment on the matter.

Minister for External Affairs (Liam Cosgrave): I have seen a published statement, in relation to the alleged “Casement Diaries”, of the nature to which the Deputy refers. There is no evidence that any Irish Government at any time were persuaded that the “Diaries” were genuine.

**1956 June 14 (vol. 158)**

Mr Brady asked the Minister for External Affairs if he will state the date on which representations were first made by the Irish Government to the British Government to have the remains of Roger Casement returned to Ireland, and on what sub­sequent dates similar representations were made; and the dates and nature of the official British replies.

Minister for External Affairs (Liam Cosgrave): The records show that the question of the return to Ireland of the remains of Roger Casement was raised with the British Government when Mr J.R. Clynes was Home Secretary in 1929-1931. Following rumours that Pentonville Prison was to be demolished, a formal request for the return of the remains was made in January 1936. A reply, refusing the request, was re­ceived the following month. Since then, numerous approaches have been made to members of the British Government.

The Deputy will appreciate that I am not in a position to divulge the contents of the communications from the British Government on this matter. I can, however, tell him that they do not differ in substance from statements made in the British House to the effect that, apart from legal difficulties, the return of the remains would not tend to improve relations between the two countries but rather the reverse.

The Ambassador in London has instructions to keep the matter constantly in view in his conversations with representatives of the British Government, but I regret to say that the soundings he has been making from time to time give no indication of any change in the attitude of the British Government.

Mr Brady: Will the Minister say if, in view of the fact that recently very prominent people, including Alfred Noyes, have strongly urged that this should now be done, he will consider making very special representations at the present time?

Mr Cosgrave: As I said, the instructions of the Ambassador in London are to make representations on any appropriate occasion. In pursuance of these instructions, he has availed of every suitable opportunity to do so.

**1956 June 26 (vol. 158)**

Mr Brady asked the Minister for External Affairs whether he has seen a recent report that the British Government had entered into a concordat with the Irish Government to say nothing about the alleged “Casement Diaries”; and, if so, if he will make a state­ment on the matter.

Mr Cosgrave: I have seen a published statement of the nature to which the Deputy refers. The Irish Government has not at any time entered into a concordat or any other form of agreement with the British Government concerning any aspect of the alleged “Casement Diaries”.

**1957 May 22 (vol. 161)**

Mr Gogan asked the Minister for External Affairs if his attention has been drawn to the statement, as recently reported, that the remains of Roger Casement were re­moved from Pentonville Prison in 1932 and buried secretly at Kilgobbin graveyard; and if he has any statement to make on the matter.

Mr Aiken: My attention has been drawn to the statement referred to by the Deputy. According to my information, there is no truth whatever in this statement.

**1958 Feb. 27 (vol. 165)**

Mr Sherwin asked the Minister for Defence if he is prepared to grant a service medal to members of the Casement Brigade, in view of the risk and financial loss incurred by their actions which were inspired by the leadership of Roger Casement.

Mr K. Boland: The Casement Brigade is not one of the organizations in respect of membership of which service medals may be issued. It is not proposed to alter this position.

Mr Sherwin: Does the Minister not agree that these men risked their lives and suffered financially? Does he not agree that if they had been captured before the end of the war by those whom they were formerly serving, they would have been shot or imprisoned or some action would have been taken by the British Govern­ment? In that way does he not think they would be entitled to a medal for that service?

Mr K. Boland: The fact of the matter is that there are six organizations, membership of one of which is necessary to qualify for the grant of a service medal, and this brigade is not one of those six organizations.

Mr Sherwin: Is it the Minister’s intention to consider the matter?

Mr K. Boland: No. This matter has been considered by every Minister in every suc­cessive Government.

Mr Sherwin: So, will the Minister say they did not serve?

An Ceann Comhairle (Patrick Hogan): That does not arise.

Mr Sherwin: I am asking a question.

An Ceann Comhairle: It does not arise from the question on the Order Paper.

Mr K. Boland: I do not say they have not served. There are other people also who have served and the question is where to draw the line. I am satisfied the six organ­iz­ations covered are sufficient. If anyone has good service in any of these organiz­ations, it will qualify for the grant of a service medal.

**1959 May 26 (vol. 175)**Mr Cosgrave asked the Minister for External Affairs if, in view of recent replies in the British House of Commons concerning the alleged Roger Casement Diaries, any representations have been made by the Government on the question; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Mr Aiken: As the matter is primarily one for Casement’s executors, I have made no representations, and I do not wish at this stage to make a statement or do anything which might prejudice any action which the executors might take.

**1963 Oct. 29 (vol. 205)**Mr Ryan asked the Minister for External Affairs if he will again request the British Government to permit the remains of Roger Casement to be exhumed and returned to Ireland, having regard to the fact that the remains of British soldiers who were killed during the Rising of 1916 were recently exhumed in Dublin Castle and reburied in consecrated ground.

Minister for External Affairs (Mr Aiken): As the Deputy is aware, it has been a con­stant objective of successive Governments to try to secure the return of the remains of Roger Casement so that they might be interred in Ireland in accordance with his express wishes. To this end, representations have regularly been made to the British Government over the years.

Representations have been renewed quite recently and they will be actively pursued until, as we all sincerely hope, Roger Casement’s last wishes are given effect.

**1964 Mar. 12 (vol. 208)**

Mr Ormonde asked the Minister for External Affairs if, in view of the recent statement by a Party member that the British Labour Party would be sympathetic to a proposal to have the body of Sir Roger Casement returned to Ireland, he will ask the British Foreign Secretary what the attitude of his Government is in the matter, and if they would be prepared to return Sir Roger’s body to Ireland.

Mr Aiken: I have seen the statement referred to by the Deputy. As I explained in reply to a previous question on 29th October last, representations to the British Government to secure the return of the remains of Roger Casement have been re­newed and will be actively pursued until, as we sincerely hope, effect is given to his last wishes.

**1965 Feb. 23 (vol. 214), statement by the Taoiseach**The Taoiseach (Seán Lemass): A Cheann Comhairle, I beg leave to make the follow­ing statement, for the information of the House.

I am very glad to announce to the Dáil that I have been informed by the British Prime Minister that his Government have recently decided to meet our request for the re­patriation of the remains of Roger Casement. As Deputies are aware, it was Case­ment’s express wish that he should have his final resting place in Ireland, and it has long been the desire of the people of Ireland, shared by successive Irish Govern­ments, that this wish be fulfilled.

Mr Wilson has generously responded to my representations in this matter, and I wish to record, therefore, the Government’s deep satisfaction at his decision, which will render possible the fulfilment of Roger Casement’s wish. This decision, coming as it does so soon after the centenary of Roger Casement’s birth, will, I am sure, be uni­versally welcomed as yet another step towards the establishment of the closest and most friendly relations between the two countries.

Arrangements have been made with the British Government for the transfer of the remains to Dublin today. The Government have decided that the remains should be re-interred in the burial plot in Glasnevin Cemetery selected by Roger Casement’s sister, Mrs Newman.

Mr Dillon: On that statement, I think it proper that I should be given an opportunity of saying ...

An Ceann Comhairle (Patrick Hogan): There is not anything before the House.

Mr Dillon: Surely it is proper that suitable observations should be made from this side of the House ...

An Ceann Comhairle: That is not the practice when a statement is made by per­miss­ion.

Mr Dillon: It is necessary to say on behalf of my Party that this is a gesture ...

An Ceann Comhairle: I do not want a precedent to be established. If I allow Deputy Dillon to proceed, half a dozen other Deputies will wish to speak.

Mr Dillon: I suppose I occupy some position in the House as Leader of the Opposit­ion, and I think I ought to say ...

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy is making a statement against the express wish of the Chair.

Mr Dillon: ... that this is a gesture which will be appreciated by our people and it is something which I on behalf of the Fine Gael Party welcome. I am glad that the representations of successive Governments have reached this satisfactory con­clus­ion.

Mr Corish: I must say I assumed there would be some words of welcome of the statement from both the Fine Gael Party and the Labour Party, and I am very pleased to welcome it on behalf of the Labour Party and the labour movement in general. I welcome this decision by the British Government to have the remains of Sir Roger Casement repatriated. Sir Roger Casement lived, worked and died for justice for the poor and underprivileged, not alone of this country but of many parts of the world. It is indeed a very happy occasion for us to know that repeated requests for the return of his remains have at last been acceded to. On an occasion such as this, one is wont to recall the words of the poet Yeats who said: “It is high time that justice was done to this most gallant gentleman”. May I conclude, therefore, by say­ing that I trust all Irish men and women will give suitable honour to the memory of Sir Roger Casement on 1st March.

**1965 Mar. 11 (vol. 214)**

Mr Coughlan asked the Minister for Defence why the Irish Navy was not represented at the funeral of Roger Casement.

Mr Bartley: Due to the exigencies of the service, it was not feasible to include personnel of An tSeirbhís Chabhlaigh with the units of Na BuanÓglaigh which parti­cipated in the funeral of Roger Casement.

Mr Coughlan: In view of Casement’s part in the naval operation, surely the Minister realizes it was a slight on the Irish Navy that they were not represented at the funeral?

**1968 Nov. 26 (vol. 237)**

Mr James Tully asked the Minister for External Affairs if he will again raise the question of the Casement Diaries with the British Government, including the ten in Scotland Yard and the three in the Public Records Offices, and ask that they be sub­mitted to an impartial scientific test and that the findings be discussed at an open court by an impartial tribunal.

Minister for External Affairs (Frank Aiken): It is not proposed to take action on the lines suggested by the Deputy in respect of the alleged diaries of Roger Casement. As Mr de Valera, the then President of the Executive Council, stated in the Dáil on 17th February 1937, in reply to a similar question: “Roger Casement’s reputation is safe in the affections of the Irish people, the only people whose opinions mattered to him.”

Mr James Tully: Is the Minister for External Affairs telling the Dáil that he is now satis­fied that all that can be done to clear Casement’s name has been done and that he will allow people, other than the Irish people, to go along believing Casement was, in fact, a pervert?

Mr Aiken: There is no way in which the Government can stop this slander of the dead. I repeat that Roger Casement’s reputation is safe in the affections of the Irish people and they were the people who mattered to him.

Mr James Tully: Does the Minister not agree that it is as important to those who respect Casement to have the diaries withdrawn as it was to have Casement’s remains taken back to Ireland?

Mr Aiken: We brought Casement’s remains back to show that the Irish people re­spected, loved and honoured him for the good work he did.

Mr James Tully: And the Minister does not want to annoy anybody by continuing to try to get the diaries withdrawn?

Mr Aiken: I do not think the Deputy is being helpful in his allegations.

Mr James Tully: I think the Minister is not being very helpful. He seems more inter­ested in settling the troubles in other parts of the world than he is in things like this. I think it is his job to do this.

Mr Aiken: That is worthy of the Deputy.

Mr James Tully: What the Minister is doing is worthy of him.

An Ceann Comhairle (Cormac Breslin): Would Deputy Tully please allow Questions to continue?

**1972 May 16 (vol. 260)**

Mr L’Estrange asked the Minister for Finance the present position regarding the Roger Casement memorial, and the expenditure to date.

Mr Lemass: The Roger Casement memorial statue has been cast, and the next step is the construction of the pedestal and the inscription of the name on it. The design of the pedestal is at present under consideration. It is planned to erect and unveil the statue later this year. The expenditure to date is £2494.

**1974 June 5 (vol. 273)**

Mr Lemass asked the Minister for Finance the present position regarding the pro­posed statue to honour Roger Casement.

Mr R. Ryan: A statue to be erected on the grave of Roger Casement at Glasnevin Cemetery was completed in 1971 and it will be erected in due course.

Mr Lemass: Will the Minister state what he means by “in due course”?

Mr Colley: Can the Minister state if there is some problem about this matter?

Mr R. Ryan: There is no more a problem than when the Deputy was my predecessor in office.

Mr Colley: When I was in office the arrangements were well in train for completing this project. It is now quite some time since the Minister assumed office and I am asking him if there is some problem in completing it.

Mr R. Ryan: There is no problem except that Deputy Colley deliberately decided to take no decision and referred it to me. The matter has only recently come to my notice and I am grateful to Deputy Lemass. When I want something done I will do it. It will be done now.

Mr Colley: On what matter is the Minister saying I refused to take a decision and referred it to him?

Mr R. Ryan: The Deputy postponed a decision as to when the statue should be erected.

Mr Colley: The Minister is talking through his hat.

An Ceann Comhairle (Seán Treacy): I am calling Question No. 41.

**1983 Dec. 6 (vol. 346)**

Mr D. Andrews asked the Taoiseach if he is aware that a statue of Roger Casement specifically commissioned for the Borough of Dún Laoghaire is no longer intended to be located there; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach (Mr Nealon): It is proposed to erect the statue of Roger Casement, sculpted by Óisín Kelly, in Ballyheigue, County Kerry.

www.oireachtas-debates.gov.ie/en.toc.dail.html