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During the hearing of an appeal, with Barry Toomey QC in full flight, a worried looking Sheriff's Officer burst into the President's Court where the Court of Appeal was sitting. On the Bench were Kirby P, Samuels JA and Meagher JA. The Sheriff's Officer approached the Bench and whispered to the Associate who spoke to the President. The following conversation ensued:

KIRBY P: What is the matter you wish to report, officer?

SHERIFF'S OFFICER: There has been a bomb threat in the building. We want to know how long your Honours will be sitting?

KIRBY P: When was it threatened that the bomb would go off?

SHERIFF'S OFFICER: At 3.30 this afternoon.

KIRBY P: But it is now quarter to four. Aren't you a bit late to be telling us?

SAMUELS JA: Perhaps we should consult the Chief Justice to see what he wishes the Court to do.

KIRBY P: In Northern Ireland, the judges operate daily under these threats. I think we should continue to sit.

SHERIFF'S OFFICER: We know who made the threat. We have not seen the person in the building.

MEAGHER JA: Was he Rumanian?

KIRBY P: I think we know the case. The Court will continue to sit until the normal hour, 4.15 p.m.

MEAGHER JA: Or earlier expiry.

TOOMEY: Whichever shall first occur.

This is the best version of what happened that could be pieced together after the event.