

RTE decides to screen series on O'Malley's life and times

By MARTIN BYRNES

RTE top brass spent until late this Wednesday afternoon agonising over whether to screen a four-part television series on Des O'Malley.

Director of television Cathal Goan personally gave the green light for the series, O'Malley — A Public Life, to commence screening this Sunday, as originally planned.

The series, believed to

have cost in the region of £250,000 to make, looks back on the life of the man who has been at the top of Irish public life for more than 30 years. However, a glitch arose a fortnight ago—caused by RTE themselves when Michael Heaney's Primetime programme made disclosures regarding the alteration of a statement taken for the Arms Trial of 1970, and subsequent newspaper revelations about a memorandum regarding secrecy of statements, apparently signed by Mr O'Malley as the then Minister for Justice.

There have since been calls for a further official enquiry, and Mr O'Malley has promised to co-operate with such a body.

RTE found it necessary to re-film some of the interview with Mr O'Malley and to re-edit this into the programmes. In the meantime, RTE let it be known that they would probably not be ready to

start transmission for a further week, and rejigging of the schedule was done. However, the content of the revised first programme was finally considered appropriate to broadcast. It will go out this Sunday at 10.20 on RTE1, lasting slightly over an hour.

Mr O'Malley, who has been a TD for Limerick East since 1967, will not contest the next election.



Des O'Malley campaigns in Limerick with Charles Haughey: new tv series examines the Deputy's role in Irish public life

Judge seeks

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