

RESTRICTED

FROM: ROBERT CRAWFORD
PS/Secretary of State (B)
23 July 1996

cc: PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Hill (B&L) - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Westmacott (via RID) - B
Mr Holmes, No 10
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Ehrman (FCO) - B

MR BEETON - B

US/NORTHERN IRELAND: SMYTH EXTRADITION

The Secretary of State has seen a copy of Peter Westmacott's letter of 20 July 1996 to Edward Oakden, covering his further conversation with Nancy Soderberg on that date.

2. The Secretary of State has also commented that we should take a very firm line about the extradition of Smyth. Smyth fought his extradition all the way on the basis that he would be intimidated if he were returned to the Maze. Immense pains have been taken over years, to provide for the US Courts the evidence required by the Justice Department in support of the claim for extradition. To refuse extradition now would cause outrage in NI and GB and be inexplicable. The Secretary of State does not favour the arrangement proposed by Nancy Soderberg, whereby Smyth would only be extradited if the IRA have not restored a ceasefire by mid-September.

(SIGNED)

ROBERT CRAWFORD
PS/Secretary of State

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