

09/10/97 18:07 THE HOME SECRETARY'S OFFICE → PM
 9-10-97 16:38 FROM: DSPP PROGRAMMES GR 01712176462

TO: 0171 273 3965

NO. 207 006
 PAGE: 04

22 SEP 1997

OIFIG AN RÚNAÍ
 An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt.
 Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí
 Baile Átha Cliath 2



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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18 September, 1997

Linda Robinson

See draft reply p. 4
21-9-97

Dear Kevin,

I wish to refer to a number of issues that have arisen concerning the repatriation of prisoners between the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Several representations have been received both from and on behalf of Prisoners in the United Kingdom (names attached) enquiring as to the possibility of having their applications expedited in view of ongoing developments in relation to the peace process.

We, for our part, would be prepared to process these applications in so far as we possibly can pending a final decision on their status. I note that the most time consuming part of this process is linked to provision of background data (statement of facts, sentence details, etc) and also to verifying the type of offences. In this regard, I am of course aware that tariffs have yet to be set in respect of a number of these applications. Similarly, while the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons requires that an application for a transfer cannot be processed pending the resolution of an appeal, we would nevertheless, given the circumstances, be willing to process these applications up to the point where a final decision on the sentence or on the continuance of the appeal process has been made.

Accordingly, I would ask you to consider, whether it might be useful - in the interest of speeding up the process - to forward at this point in time the necessary documentation in relation to such cases to facilitate the commencement of the processing procedure by this Office.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Mellett,
 Assistant Secretary.

Mr Kevin Heale,
 HM Prison Service,
 Cleland House,
 Page Street,
 London SW1P 4LN.