

09/10/97 18:07 THE HOME SECRETARY'S OFFICE → PM
 1-10-97 16:38 FROM: DSPP PROGRAMMES GR 01712176462

TO: 0171 273 3965

NO. 207
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Michael Mellett
 Assistant Secretary
 Office of the Secretary
 Department of Justice,
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 DUBLIN 2

9 October 1997

Dear Michael,

I promised, when I wrote to you on 25 September that I would give further, careful thought to your suggestions for speeding up the processing of certain repatriation applications.

We have now reviewed the outstanding applications mentioned in your letter. It remains the case that it would be extremely difficult for us to justify treating a small group of prisoners differently to any other repatriation applicant, especially where such treatment would appear to be in breach of the provisions of the Repatriation Convention (I have in mind particularly Article 4.2). I do not think it advisable, therefore, to refer to you cases in which there is an outstanding appeal or in which the tariff has not yet been set.

However, several of the cases we have been considering are reaching the stage at which they may be referred. For ease of reference I attach a table giving the current status of each case.

We are pressing for the tariff to be set quickly in the case of Peter Sherry. You already have most of the papers in this case and may recall that following referral of his case to you it was discovered that his tariff had previously been quashed. In the circumstances we are content for your Department to continue with consideration of the papers in this case as far as is possible.

We are sending separately to your Department today the papers relating to an application submitted by Gerald Hanratty. We should be in a position to refer applications from three of his co-defendants within a two to three week period. Referral is, however, subject to whether the prisoners concerned decide to pursue appeals against conviction/sentence.

We are also referring today papers relating to William Quin. You may recall that William Quin does not appear, at first sight, to meet the normal repatriation criteria in that, according to our records, he is an American citizen. Referral is therefore without prejudice as to our final decision. To date we have

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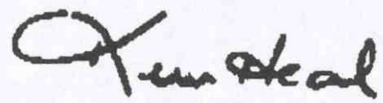
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received no response to several enquiries as to William Quin's links with the Republic. We would normally pursue this further. However, in the light of your letter I am prepared to refer the case to you at this stage for consideration and to enable you to carry out your own checks. I hope you will find this helpful.

We remain aware of the pressure that there is for progress in these cases, and will continue to make efforts to compile the relevant documentation as quickly as possible and to refer cases as soon as they are ready.

Yours sincerely



KEVIN HEAL