



Northern Ireland Office
Stormont Castle
Belfast BT4 3ST

The Rt Hon Jack Straw MP
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

File
OK
30/9.

26 September 1997

Dear Jack,

IRISH PRISONERS

Thank you very much for your letter of 25 September with regard to the handling arrangements for the changes in respect of intra-UK transfers. I am grateful to you for what you have done.

As you say, there is nothing particularly to be gained from publicity on these changes on the mainland, however you will remember that I thought we should have a short press release in Northern Ireland. As the changes will benefit both loyalist and republican prisoners held on temporary transfer to Northern Ireland, I think it would be unfortunate if we were not to take some benefit for these changes at this time.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Scotland.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marjorie'.

MARJORIE MOWLAM

SOFS/STRAW/BB