

~~ime Minister~~  
To be aware that this is now  
going ahead.



file  
PRB  
3/11

Top AC JEM  
CC JEM AL  
PB  
PU

Philip  
31/10

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND :  
DETERMINATION OF REQUESTS FROM WOOD, KINSELLA AND HAYES

Further to my minute to you of 21 October you will wish to know that I wrote to the Irish Minister for Justice, Mr O'Donoghue as drafted.

2 His response (copy attached) confirms that there is a clear understanding between us as to the way in which the Republic will continue to enforce the sentences of prisoners repatriated from this jurisdiction.

3 On the basis of this agreement I am prepared to agree to three outstanding repatriation requests (Wood, Kinsella and Hayes).

4

I therefore intend to arrange for the three prisoners to be informed of my decision today (31 October), in order to avoid unwarranted speculation that the repatriations have been agreed in response to action by prisoners.

5 I will also be informing Mr O'Donoghue of my decision today. It will now be necessary for the Republic to obtain the necessary authority for the repatriations through their courts, a process which can take several weeks. The precise timing of the prisoners' moves to the Republic will therefore be subject to liaison with the Republic. I will keep you informed of developments.

to be  
answered  
on Monday

6 I am arranging for the decisions to be made public by way of a low key arranged PQ (copy attached) in order to avoid any suggestion, in the light of recent events, that the decisions have not been properly handled.

7 I am copying this minute to Mo Mowlam, Robin Cook, Donald Dewar and to Sir Robin Butler.

*David R. Bell*

Approved by the Home Secretary  
and signed in his absence

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

31 October 1997

CONFIDENTIAL



PREM 49/119

Minute dated 31/10/97