



CONFIDENTIAL - POLICY

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

The Rt Hon Mo Mowlam MP
Northern Ireland Office
Whitehall
London SW1

24 MAR 1998

Handwritten notes:
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Dear Mo,

PRISONERS AND THE SETTLEMENT

Thank you for your letter of 9 March giving further details of your suggestions for dealing with the position of prisoners convicted of terrorist-related offences in the context of a settlement in Northern Ireland.

I share your view that there would be difficulties in excluding prisoners convicted of terrorist-related prisoners but not held under your jurisdiction, from any arrangements for early release stemming from a satisfactory peace settlement. It will also be necessary to consider what action the Irish Republic is likely to take in respect of prisoners repatriated there.

While initial consideration suggests there would be some difficulties in proceeding in either of the ways you suggest, there may be ways of overcoming these problems, or alternative ways of proceeding. I suggest, therefore, that our officials should liaise urgently with a view to developing viable proposals relating to prisoners convicted of terrorist-related offences, wherever they may be held, and that I write to you again following this.

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

Yours ever,

Jack

JACK STRAW

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