

CONFIDENTIAL - POLICY



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*Final passes HK  
bcJPB, PB, AC.*

From the Principal Private Secretary

19 March 1998

*See Ken,*

### IRISH PRISONERS

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Home Secretary's minute of 18 March. Subject to the comments of the Northern Ireland Secretary, he agrees that you should seek further assurances from the Irish Government about how they would operate the sentences of the five terrorist prisoners who have life sentences with whole life tariffs. We should look at the timing of future action in the light of the Irish reply.

I am copying this to Ken Lindsay (Northern Ireland Office) and Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

*Yours  
John*

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Sutton Esq  
Home Office

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