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To: HQ
To: C O Floinn

From: Belfast
From: P Folan

Subj: Loyalist prisoner transfers: statement by the Secretary of State

1. The following statement was issued by the Secretary of State last night and carried in the News Letter today - Friday 26 September.

2. "The two Loyalist parties have raised with me the cases of three prisoners in Great Britain who want to be transferred. Two have requested transfers from England to Scotland - one request has been agreed, the other is being considered.

A third prisoner has requested a transfer from Scotland to Northern Ireland. He has been offered a transfer. If he accepts he can be moved quickly."

3. The prisoners involved in the transfers from England to Scotland are David Russell and Charles Muir. Both were convicted for the importation of firearms for criminal purposes.

4. The prisoner being offered a transfer to Northern Ireland is a Jason Campbell who had been convicted of the murder of a Celtic supporter (he apparently slit his throat).

5. Alan Shannon, the Chief Executive of the Prison Service (NI), in a brief conversation with us at a function this evening, seemed to play down the significance attached to these prisoners. This may be consistent with subsequent indications I received from the British side that the prisoners' convictions related to straightforward criminal rather than terrorist activity.

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