

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2021/51/431
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

AMBASÁID NA hÉIREANN, LONDAIN
IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

17, GROSVENOR PLACE,
SW1X 7HR
Telephone: 0171-235 2171
Direct Line: 0171-201 2
Fax: 0171-245 6961

pa. on p.1. 3 & p.1. 2 & loyalist prisoners

17 October 1997

Mr. Colm O'Floinn
Counsellor
Anglo-Irish Division
Department of Foreign Affairs

PSM,PSSG,S/Sec.Gallagher,Cllrs.A-I.
Mr.Teahon,Mr.Dalton,Dr.Mansergh,
Ambassadors [redacted] & Washington,
Joint Secretary,Section,Box.
Mrs. Biggar
Ms Mallaghan

17.10

Dear Colm,

Conversation with Dr. Norman Godman MP about prisoner transfers

Dr. Norman Godman MP telephoned from his constituency today to discuss among other things his intervention in the Jason Campbell case.

I suggested, and Godman agreed, that the "special character" of the Campbell incident should not be allowed to undermine the general case for transferring republican and loyalist prisoners.

Godman believes that as many as six or seven prisoners with loyalist connections have been moved to Scotland over the past two years. The list given by David Ervine to Minister of State Adam Ingram contained three names other than Campbell's. Had Campbell's name been deleted, there would have been no controversy.

Godman said Adam Ingram, who as a west of Scotland MP "ought to have known better", approved the full list submitted to him by Ervine. Practical arrangements were then made between the Northern Ireland Prison Service and their Scottish colleagues. Ministers at the Scottish Office were not involved in the decision to transfer Campbell. Neither was Dr. Mowlam. But she, in what Godman described as a professional manner, accepted extensive representations about Campbell from within the parliamentary party (ten letters, several phone calls) and has also shouldered much of the blame.

17/10 '97 16:05 SECURE-FX TRANSMISSION IRISH EMBASSY --->00 353 1 4753224 P.02
©DFA/2021/51/431

Godman commented that one conclusion to be drawn from the reversal of the original decision in the Campbell case is that there is a political world in Scotland, fully reflected in the Scottish media, which is distinct from the world of Westminster.

There were hints that Godman has come under Ministerial pressure to allow the Campbell case to recede from public view. This confirms our impression that the Secretary of State for Scotland has done as much as possible in his handling of the case to avoid "collateral damage" to the Labour government's policy on transfers.

Yours sincerely,

Philip McDonagh

Philip McDonagh
Counsellor

17/10 '97 16:05 SECURE-FX TRANSMISSION IRISH EMBASSY --->00 353 1 4753224 Pg: 05

©DFA/2021/51/431