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Reference Code:	2021/52/686
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Urgent

No. of pages: 2 , including this cover page **Date:** 2 September 1998

To: Ambassador, London
Joint Secretary, Belfast
Chargé a.i., Washington
Consul General, New York

From: John Biggar

Subject: Fisher and Wright

I attach, for information, the approach that will be used here in response to any press queries relating to today's release of Guardsmen Fisher and Wright.

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Guardsmen Fisher and Wright

Suggested press line in response to queries

- **The Minister for Foreign Affairs notes today's announcement that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has decided to release Guardsmen Fisher and Wright on life licence.**

- **The approach of the Government has always been to address in an imaginative, compassionate and generous way all questions relating to those who have been imprisoned in the context of the conflict in Northern Ireland. This has also been the approach of the Secretary of State.**

- **We have also underlined the importance of all cases of this kind being treated with impartiality.**

- **This approach is fully reflected in the Good Friday Agreement.**

- **The Minister is fully conscious of the concerns of the McBride family, and expresses his deepest sympathy to them and to the families of all the victims of violence at this difficult time for them.**

- **The Minister also notes that the Secretary of State referred in today's statement to the expected release, early next week, of the first prisoners to benefit from the operation of the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act. He very much welcomes this development.**

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