

Mr Wyatt - M

cc Mr Hannigan - M
 Mr Marshall
 Mr Moriarty
 Mr Irvine - M
 Mr Barry - M
 Mr Gilliamd - M
 Mr Jackson - M
 Mr Buxton - M
 Mr Corbett



ECHR - THE MAZE CASE

Our Legal Advisers heard this morning that the Commission's written partial Decision is now ready and will be posted to us (and to the Applicants) on Monday 16 June. It should arrive on Wednesday and arrangements have been made for it to be considered by our Legal Advisers immediately it arrives, with a view to giving the Government's views in the form of a Written Answer later that day. (Parliamentary Section confirm that a non-priority Question for Written Answer can be tabled on Monday for answer ~~any time~~ ^{from} ~~after~~ ^{onwards} Wednesday.)

However, our Legal Advisers were also told that the Commission press announcement, issued earlier this week, did contain a reference to this application. It appeared in a list of those (thirteen) applications which the Commission declared inadmissible and struck off the list during its last session. It was described as:

"An application (8317/78) concerning the treatment and conditions of detention at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland of prisoners claiming special category status"

and a footnote to this reference explained that:

"The substantial part of this application was declared inadmissible. The Commission reserved two particular aspects for further consideration".

This announcement does not yet appear to have been picked up by anybody but I attach a draft line-to-take which Information Officers might like to have to hand over the weekend in case they are asked about it.

David Hill

D J R HILL

SIL