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cc: PS/Secretary of State (B&L) B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Bloomfield - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Burns - B
Mr Palmer
Mr Chesterton - B
Mr Elliott - B
Mr Wood - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr D McNeill
Mr Jackson
Mr Ginn
Mr G Hewitt - B

PS/Mr Scott (B&L) - BLIS

MAZE ESCAPEES' TRIAL

1. The purpose of this note is to advise the Minister concerning prison security arrangements in relation to this trial which is scheduled to commence before the Lord Chief Justice on 28 April at Crumlin Road Courthouse.
2. Following the announcement of the trial date meetings were convened with representatives from the Army, RUC and prison authorities at which various additional security measures were outlined. For the duration of the proceedings the Army and RUC are to increase their patrols in the vicinity of the Courthouse and prison while the police on duty inside the Courthouse will exercise special vigilance when searching persons seeking access to the Crown Court. The prison authorities will also be taking appropriate internal precautions including special surveillance and search procedures.
3. The 16 defendants at HMP Maze were transferred by helicopter to HMP Belfast on 21 April to facilitate pre-trial consultations with their legal representatives in accordance

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with the LCJ's wishes. They have been dispersed throughout A and C wings with the 7 top risk prisoners (including McFarlane and Kelly) being housed on A3 landing.

4. Prior to their appearance in court each day all of the escapees who remain in custody (2 are on bail) will be strip searched. To facilitate this procedure the LCJ has agreed that daily sittings will not commence before 11 am. The LCJ would not however agree to our proposal to handcuff the prisoners in the court as he considered that both the prison and police authorities would take adequate steps to ensure the safe custody of the prisoners without this being necessary.

5. On present predictions the trial could last 10 weeks. However, should it be longer and we are faced with a summer recess the prisoners will be transferred back to HMP Maze.

6. I will keep the Minister advised of any further significant security aspects as and when they arise.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R J Kendrick', written in a cursive style.

R J KENDRICK
Director of Prison Security
& Operations Division

24 April 1987

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