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24 FEB 1988

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 February 1988

*Mrs Howard*

*Please furnish me with the details of the conditions, sentences*

*etc. of the prisoners whereby. You will need*

*to refer to PRB 2B + PRB 1 since I'm not certain*

*where these prisoners are (possibly here). I would be*

*grateful if you cd. let me have the info tomorrow morning*  
*first thing, at the latest.*

P N Bell Esq  
SIL Division  
NIO

*Dear Peter*

*CAM*  
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SOVIET ENQUIRY ABOUT PRISONERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

1. You have seen Moscow telegram no. 304 recording the exchange between my Secretary of State and Mr Shevardnadze about "political prisoners" in Northern Ireland.

... 2. I now enclose a copy of the list handed over by Mr Shevardnadze. It contains 8 names only. There are some obvious problems of spelling, but I hope that it is possible to identify the people concerned.

3. The question arises how we should respond to the Soviet approach. I think that my Secretary of State dealt with the general question of "political prisoners". But our initial view is that we do need still to respond to the specific Soviet enquiry. As you know, we regularly pass to the Soviet Union lists of prisoners of conscience and others in whom we have an interest, and to refuse to give any response to their enquiries would be to invite them to ignore our own. There would accordingly seem to be a case for giving the Russians a straight bat response with the precise details of the offences for which the persons named were convicted, and the sentences handed down. The sooner we do so the better, so as to set a good example and prevent matters drifting.

4. The names ring no bells with me. I hope that the list includes a fair proportion of violent offenders with whom no-one could have much sympathy.

*Yours ever*

T J B George  
Republic of Ireland Department

cc: S Hewitt Esq, LOD, NIO(B)  
S C Jackson Esq, PRB1, NIO(B)  
S Hemans Esq, Soviet Dept, FCO

*CAM*

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1. Джон Антони Маккуи (John Anthony McCooey)
2. Питер Уилоу (Peter Whelaw)
3. Томми Макграт (Tommy McGrat)
4. Майкл Калберт (Michael Culbert)
5. Джозеф Гибсон (Joseph Gibson)
6. Эдвард О'Коннор (Edward O'Connor)
7. Кевин Макнелли (Kevin McNally)
8. Пол Крейтон (Paul Kreighton)