

RESTRICTED

DB335/94
RECEIVED 10 NOV 1994

JEN/L/11/51/59263

John Murphy

UNDER/ SCS/11
SEC
- 9 NOV 1994
CENT SEC

Roderic Lyne Esq CB
Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

9 November 1994

John Murphy

Dear Rod

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND - IRA PRISONERS

I can now tell you what the Irish Government will be saying this evening about their release of prisoners.

Background

The Irish Government will let it be known this evening (but non attributably) that nine IRA prisoners are being released early, before Christmas.

Six have been sentenced for firearms and explosives offences, one for possessing ammunition, and two have been sentenced to life imprisonment.

All are being released conditionally (ie subject to recall), after individual review of their cases, taking into account time already served, their conduct while in prison, and the need to protect the public against any remaining threat.

The two life sentence prisoners have already served 12 and 15 years respectively.

None of the nine is understood to be of any interest to the RUC or the Metropolitan Police in connection with any offences committed in the United Kingdom.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Suggested Line to Take

I suggest we take the following line:

It is understood that the Irish Government expect to release, subject to recall, nine IRA prisoners including two life sentence prisoners who have already served twelve and fifteen years respectively.

None are believed to be wanted by the police in the United Kingdom in respect of any offences here.

This is a matter for the Irish Government; the British Government has not been consulted about it, and has no plans for any similar action.

Mr Watkins

Mr Williams

Mr Wood (SAB)

Mr Stephens

Mr Skryth

Mr Beaton

Yours ever

John

SIR JOHN CHILCOT

RESTRICTED