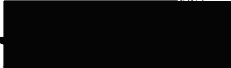


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Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach



23 December, 1999.

Mr. Tony Blair, MP,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London.

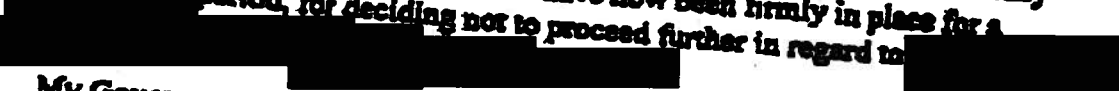
**SUBJECT
MASTER**

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Dear Tony,

Further to our conversation in London on Friday last, 17 December, 1999, I write to confirm my view and that of my Government that on grounds of public policy, related to the full implementation of all aspects of the Good Friday Agreement, there is a strong case for deciding that the relevant authorities will not proceed further now, or during the continuation of a complete and unequivocal ceasefire, in regard to certain outstanding warrants or any proceedings that may be subsequently contemplated in all the relevant jurisdictions in Ireland and in the United Kingdom. The warrants or proceedings relate to persons who had they already been arrested for or convicted of the offences in question would have been qualifying prisoners for the purposes of the Good Friday Agreement

In particular, at this time, and within the framework I have suggested above, my Government consider that there are particularly strong grounds of public policy, given that the political and security situations in Northern Ireland have been transformed by the establishment of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement and by the ceasefires that have now been firmly in place for a substantial period, for deciding not to proceed further in regard to



My Government believe that in regard to persons named, such a decision will be of particularly strong beneficial effect in regard to promoting

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the implementation of all aspects of the Good Friday Agreement. The named persons are very strong supporters of the Agreement and, with full freedom of movement, will be able to play an even more effective role, within the republican constituency in Northern Ireland and in this State, in persuading and leading those who might otherwise be sceptical towards an unqualified embrace of democratic politics and of exclusively peaceful means of promoting progress towards political objectives.

I wish to make clear that, in regard to requests such as that previously made in [REDACTED] case, it would be our intention, within the framework set out above, to extend the decision made on public policy grounds to such requests for mutual assistance in relation to extradition proceedings to the UK or other countries which might be prosecuted in other countries, such as the United States.

I and my Government believe that it would be particularly beneficial in respect of the objects of policy in regard to Northern Ireland, shared by both our Governments, if we could agree, and give effect to, the decision we propose in regard to the named persons before Christmas, with agreement and follow-through in regard to other cases to follow shortly, in the New Year, following further consultations between our two Governments and with relevant authorities in all the affected jurisdictions.

If you and your Government can agree what we now propose for implementation before Christmas, perhaps this could be indicated through the usual channel as soon as is practicable.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



**Bertie Ahern
Taoiseach.**

AN tARD-AIGHNE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Tithe an Rialtais Sráid Mhuirfean Uacht Baile Átha Cliath 2
Government Buildings Upper Merrion Street Dublin 2
Telephone: 01 661 6944 Fax: 01 676 1806
email: info@ag.irlgov.ie url: www.irlgov.ie/ag




6th October 2000

The Rt Hon The Lord Williams of Mostyn QC
Attorney General,
9 Buckingham Gate,
London,
SW1E 6JP.

Dear Attorney General,

I refer to the statement made on 29 September 2000 by the Secretary of State, Peter Mandelson MP, on the consequences on the extradition of certain convicted fugitives of the Good Friday Agreement. As I understand that statement it is that those whose extradition has been sought, who appear might qualify for early release under the Good Friday Agreement Scheme were they currently serving their sentences, will no longer be sought for the purposes of extradition to Northern Ireland.

I am writing to enquire whether you are in a position to let me know whether there are persons in this jurisdiction whose extradition has been sought which is now no longer being pursued by the relevant police force as a result of the Good Friday Agreement. You will be aware that some of those who may be covered by this statement have brought proceedings before the courts. I would be anxious to be able to inform the relevant court of the position, should any of these be the subject matter of the statement, and to move for their discharge on the extradition warrants.


Michael McDowell, S.C.
Attorney General.

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