



Relayed
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

~~B/F 13.9.79~~

6 September, 1979.

Extradition

As you will be aware, there has been a good deal of discussion in recent days about the operation of the statutes governing the extradition of individuals from the United Kingdom. The willingness of the British authorities to extradite in suitable instances is well established. The Prime Minister made some play in her talks with Mr. Lynch yesterday with specific examples provided by John Chilcot in his letter to me of 4 September (copy enclosed).

What is less clear to me is how what might be called the political dimension enters into the situation. As you may have seen from the record of yesterday's talks, Mr. Lynch claimed that in the Littlejohn case the Irish Attorney General had had to give an assurance before Littlejohn was returned that Littlejohn would not be charged with any political offence on reaching Dublin. It would be helpful to us here to have an analysis of how account is taken of the political factor in this sense in considering a request for extradition. It is clearly an element which looms large in Irish thinking on the subject.

I am sending copies of this letter to George Walden (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Roy Harrington (Northern Ireland Office), John Chilcot (Home Office), and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

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