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IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

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24 March 1982

Dear Ivan

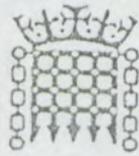
I enclose copy of a press release by Sir John Biggs-Davison MP, Gerry Fitt MP and Christopher Price MP concerning a submission they recently made to Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, regarding the conviction of the late Guiseppe Conlon. Attached to the press release is the submission by Dr Brian Caddy, lecturer in Forensic Science at Strathclyde University, regarding the forensic basis of the conviction and the nature of the Yallop test. As you will recall, the Embassy asked the FCO for their views on the status of these tests and it was sent to the Department in December 1980. You should have extensive material on file regarding the Conlon conviction including the House of Commons debate inaugurated by Sir John Biggs-Davison in August 1980. I will let you know of any developments in this case.

Yours sincerely

Gerard Corr

Mr Ivan King
Anglo-Irish Section
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin 2

What thing
The submission by Dr. Caddy may be of some interest to our own forensic people. Perhaps you would pass a copy to Difford's
You may wish to see. It is not clear to me that Dr Caddy's paper is
favourable to Conlon's case since it appears to rule out confusion between explosives and e.g. tobacco smoke in a properly conducted test - though whether the test which was carried out was properly conducted is open to question.
25/3



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

PRESS RELEASE

Sir John Biggs Davison MP, Gerry Fitt MP and Christopher Price MP visited Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office today and asked him to review the conviction of 'Guiseppe' Conlon in the light of the opinion expressed by Dr Brian Caddy, Senior Lecturer in Forensic Science at Strathclyde University in a paper dated 5 February 1982 which had very recently been supplied to the Home Office.

Mr Mayhew said the Home Secretary was always prepared to review a conviction or sentence with a view to the possibility of referring it to the Court of Appeal or taking other action in respect of it if some new evidence or other consideration of substance became available which had not been before the courts.

Mr Mayhew thanked the three Members of Parliament for coming and said that Dr Caddy's opinion would be given close consideration.

12 March 1982