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CONFIDENTIAL

2 April 1986

Dear David

Subject Birmingham Six

I had a telephone conversation with Gareth Pearce (Solicitor) today regarding the above and other cases.

X | She told me that she would be seeing Chris Mullin (assistant to Joan Maynard MP) over the weekend and said that his book on the case is due to be published in July. (You will recall that Mr Mullin visited Ireland several times over the last few months and made some approaches to us about visits to Portlaoise Prison). Ms Pearce said that Mr Mullin now knew exactly of the people who are responsible for the Birmingham bombing in 1974. He had compiled "highly detailed information" and her main concern was whether it would be desirable to present this, even in draft form, before a Home Office decision. She was very worried that if a negative response ensues (which judging by the FCO this week may well happen), Mr Mullin's research will be rendered academic.

I briefed Ms Pearce on our Minister's approach to the Home Secretary as well as her access to the Ambassador should it prove helpful again. I also informed her of the latest indications regarding the timescale for a decision from the Home Office.

We are to speak again next week following her meeting with Mr Mullin.

Yours sincerely

Orla O'Hanrahan

Orla O'Hanrahan
Third Secretary

cc Ambassador
Staff
✓ Mr O'Donovan
PSM

in Barry not Spike D Cole QB
You might mention it to
in Cole in Justice
Ch
35/4