



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

<b>Reference Code:</b>	2016/52/77
<b>Creation Dates:</b>	8 April 1986
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	4 pages
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
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4. I understand that the warrants were in a form which met the requirements of the Irish presenting authorities, who at no time suggested that they were deficient. Throughout last week's court hearing there was close co-operation between the Irish presenting authorities and officers from the Metropolitan Police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution.

5. On Saturday morning, having heard submissions from defence counsel that the extradition warrants were defective, the court discharged Miss Glenholmes. I understand that the principal consideration which underlay the court's decision was that, whereas the standard wording printed on warrants referred to information on oath as having been laid on the day the warrants were issued (i.e. 6 November 1984), the court considered that the relevant information was that laid when the original warrants had been issued on 31 October 1984. I understand that the magistrate treated the further application as having been made under oath adopting the information already laid but not re-sworn. Nevertheless there was no question but that the information required for both sets of warrants was identical.

6. Even before Miss Glenholmes was released, the United Kingdom authorities had made arrangements for the issue of a fresh warrant covering one of the charges of murder. On the basis of this fresh warrant, the Garda obtained a new provisional warrant for Miss Glenholmes' arrest. Once Miss Glenholmes had been re-arrested, she was brought back to the District Court. I understand that Miss Glenholmes was then released, this time on

/the grounds that ...

the grounds that the court was not satisfied that there was evidence that a fresh warrant had been issued in London that morning or that Miss Glenholmes had in effect been at liberty between her earlier release and her re-arrest.

7. Following Miss Glenholmes' release, a fresh warrant on a charge of murder has been obtained; this was sent to Dublin this morning. Earlier today additional warrants were obtained covering five of the further charges; in addition, applications are this afternoon being made for the issue of three further warrants in Oxfordshire and these will be forwarded to the authorities in Dublin as soon as they have been granted.

7. My Rt Hon and learned friend the Attorney General and I have looked carefully at the information so far available to us. On the basis of that information it is clear that the extradition application failed because of a technical objection taken by the Dublin court. My Rt Hon and learned friend and I regret that this technical objection was not foreseen and fresh warrants obtained. We are considering urgently the need for a review of procedures and the handling of this sort of case. My Rt Hon and learned friend the Attorney General has instructed the Directors of Public Prosecutions for England and Wales, and for Northern Ireland, to ensure personally that all outstanding warrants in respect of terrorist offences are checked at once for accuracy and sufficiency. Under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Conference work has already begun on a range of legal matters relating to extradition; the lessons of the past few days will be studied in that context.

/I should also....

24

8. I should also inform the House, for the sake of completeness, that our enquiries have shown that in giving evidence to the court in Dublin an officer from the Metropolitan Police made an error in referring to the dates on which the warrants were issued. I understand that he sought to correct this error, but that an opportunity for him to do so was not forthcoming. This does not, however, appear to have influenced the court in its decision to release Miss Glenholmes.

I am sure that the whole House will join with me in expressing our disappointment that it has not so far proved possible to obtain the extradition of Miss Glenholmes to face justice in a British court. It is clearly of the highest importance that we all learn the right lessons for the future from this failure.