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Reference Code:	2017/4/10
Creation Dates:	7 July 1987
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
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Meeting with Annie Maguire and Mr. & Mrs. Smalley

Mrs. Annie Maguire was released from prison in 1985 on completion of a 14 year sentence for possession of explosives. Her husband and two sons were convicted on the same charge in 1975 but received smaller sentences. The prosecution case was based almost entirely on forensic evidence (i.e. traces of explosives on hands etc), the tests for which cannot now be repeated.

Mrs. Teresa Smalley is the aunt of Paul Hill who received life sentences in 1975 for the pub bombings at Guildford and Woolwich. The Guildford and Maguire cases are closely connected; it was claimed in court by the prosecution that the Maguires provided the explosives for the Guildford and Woolwich bombings.

The Home Secretary, Mr. Hurd, refused on 20 January to refer either of these cases to the Court of Appeal (unlike the case of the Birmingham Six). Since then there has been correspondence between the Minister and the Home Secretary who has said that he will consider very carefully the points made in the ITV First Tuesday programme of 3 March.

Suggested speaking points:

- I was most disappointed that the Home Secretary did not refer these two cases to the Court of Appeal on 20 January at the same time as the Birmingham Six case.
- I have already written to the Home Secretary asking him to reconsider his decision.
- I believe that the alibi provided by Mrs. Yvonne Fox on the ITV programme of 3 March is sufficient new evidence to justify referral of the Guildford case to the Court of Appeal. (I understand, however, that a legally testified copy of Mrs. Fox's statement may not yet have been sent to the Home Office by the solicitor in the case).

I have asked the Home Secretary to take into account the views of such eminent individuals as Lord Devlin and Cardinal Hume.

- The Home Secretary has written to me stating that he is considering the points made in the ITV programme very carefully. He has said that he will decide as soon as possible whether Mrs. Fox's statement affects his decision announced on 20 January.
- I shall continue to press the Home Secretary to refer both the Guildford and Maguire cases to the Court of Appeal.
- I believe it would not be in the best interests of the defendants if the cases were to be raised to that of an international dispute. The support of of British politicians and other persons of influence is very important. It must be retained and increased.
- The Irish Government and the Embassy in London is ready to provide every practical assistance to those involved in the two cases.

M. H. O'Han
Anglo Irish Section

7 July 1987

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