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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Charles Haughey, TD
Prime Minister
Dail Eireann
Baile Atha Cliath, 2,
DUBLIN 2
EIRE

18 August 1987

Dear Mr Haughey,

I was surprised to read that your Government is expected to ratify the extradition treaty with Britain following the announcement of a police enquiry into the Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings. If these reports are accurate, I am disappointed that you can be so easily satisfied.

As I am sure you appreciate, extradition depends on confidence in the legal system to which your Government is proposing to extradite. I fail to see how your Government can possibly have confidence in the handling by the British legal system of the cases involving the 17 innocent Irish persons convicted in connection with the Birmingham, Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings.

As I attempted to impress upon yourself and Mr Lenihan when we met in October last year, I am firmly convinced that many people in high places know, or at least strongly suspect, that these people are innocent. The task on which I and others have been engaged has been merely to raise the level of embarrassment to the point where the British Government have no choice but to own up. Since these cases involve Irish citizens and are the subject of considerable public concern in Ireland, I had hoped we could count on the robust support of your Government. I am frankly disappointed at the low profile your Government has adopted on this issue.

At the very least, I would have hoped that you would not ratify the extradition treaty until after these innocent Irish persons have been released and compensated. I would also like to hope that, to indicate the seriousness with which your Government takes this issue, you will be represented at a high level when the Birmingham case comes before the Court of Appeal in November.

Yours sincerely,

CHRIS MULLIN, MP

cc Brian Lenihan,
Foreign Minister

Tony Gregory, TD