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Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach

September, 1987.

Mr. Richard McIlkenny,
H.M. Prison,
Wormwood Scrubs,

Dear Mr. McIlkenny,

Thank you for your recent letter.

In regard to the matter you raised, the position is that the 1987 Extradition Act, which when in force will implement the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, is not due to commence until 1 December unless both Houses of the Oireachtas decide otherwise by a resolution. The Minister for Justice told the Dáil on 26 March that he is examining the position with regard to the commencement of this Act and that he may make proposals to the Government on the matter.

It is a matter of considerable satisfaction to me that you will be given the opportunity to clear your name in your forthcoming appeal. I should point out that the decision to refer your case to the Court of Appeal came as a result of concern expressed by, amongst others, the Government. An observer will be present for the hearing.

Yours sincerely,

Taoiseach.