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Birmingham Six
Statement by the Tánaiste

The Tánaiste notes with regret the decision today that the appeal of the Birmingham Six will not be heard by the House of Lords.

The Government are deeply perturbed that, despite the widespread and continuing concern that there may have been a miscarriage of justice in these cases, the avenues of legal appeal now appear to have been exhausted and the Six remain imprisoned. The Birmingham Six have already spent over thirteen years in jail. In the circumstances, the Government consider that there are compelling humanitarian reasons for the Home Secretary to consider using the wide-ranging powers available to him in such cases.

The Tánaiste will be establishing early contact with the Home Secretary in relation to the Birmingham Six case, as well as other cases which continue to give rise to concern.

14 April 1988.