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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

Dundonald House

Upper Newtownards Road Belfast BT4 3SU

Telephone ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Belfast 63255 ext

Mr J Steele
Lord Chancellor's Department
Northern Ireland Courts Service
Windsor House
9-15 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7LT

Your reference

Our reference
PO PR29/86/1

Date
6 November 1986

Dear

APPEAL BY PERSONS CONVICTED ON THE EVIDENCE OF HARRY KIRKPATRICK

At a meeting of interested parties prior to the commencement of the Kirkpatrick Supergrass trial, the Governor of Belfast Prison described the problems his staff would encounter on a Friday dealing with the movement of some 180 weekly remand prisoners between the Courthouse and the Prison, together with the 27 defendants involved in the trial. [REDACTED] undertook to raise this point with the Lord Chief Justice and as a result the Lord Chief Justice directed that there should be no sittings on a Friday.

The Appeal in relation to this trial is scheduled to begin on Monday, 17 November and once again this will present identical control of movement difficulties to the Prison authorities on Fridays.

I appreciate that both the McGrady and Quigley Appeals sat on Fridays, however, the numbers involved were substantially less and the Governor was satisfied that his staff would be able to manage in these cases.

The Kirkpatrick Appeal involves 21 appellants, including 3 Top Risk prisoners and 10 High Risk prisoners, and thus prison staff could be faced with moving upwards of 200 prisoners on Fridays.

In view of this I would be grateful if representations could be made to the Lord Chief Justice to direct that there should be no sitting in this Appeal on a Friday.

Yours sincerely



Director of Prison Operations

AJ

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28

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Reference..... PO PR 29/86/1

[REDACTED]

APPEAL BY PERSONS CONVICTED ON THE EVIDENCE OF HARRY KIRKPATRICK

1. Addressees will be interested to note that the above case is scheduled to begin on Monday, 17 November, in Crumlin Road Courthouse. All 27 appellants are appealing against both conviction and sentence and the Court Service estimate that the case may last some 2 months.
2. Six of the appellants are currently on bail, while the remaining 21 will be transferred from HM Prison, Maze, to HM Prison, Belfast, on Sunday, 16 November. Included in this number are 3 Top Risk prisoners ([REDACTED]), together with 10 High Risk prisoners.
3. They will remain in HM Prison, Belfast, for the duration of the appeal unless there are any lengthy adjournments, in which case they will be returned to HM Prison, Maze.
4. Certain additional security precautions, which were implemented for the trial, will again be adopted for the appeal.

[REDACTED]

Prison Security and Operations Division

31. October 1986

cc.

[REDACTED]
Mr Jackson

[REDACTED]
Mr J Semple

[REDACTED] B/10.
Mr Gilmore, PIU

hidden copy [REDACTED]

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29

11. Summary of Security Precautions

✓ (a) All defendants in the Kirkpatrick ~~and~~ trial will be strip searched.

✓ (b) Prisoners will be handcuffed in pairs while moving through the tunnel.

✓ (c) Holding rooms will be searched by the prison staff on every occasion before prisoners are placed in them.

✓ (d) The preparation and movement of food for the defendants will be closely supervised. Orderlies responsible for serving it will be strip searched.

(e) Kirkpatrick's lunch will be obtained from the Courthouse canteen.

✓ (f) As defendants move from holding rooms to the dock they will be given a rub down search.

(g) Only 3 prisoners will be allowed simultaneous legal visits.

(h) The Central Search Team will check the tunnel, holding rooms, dock and witness box on 21 April. Belfast Prison staff will also search these areas before each daily sitting. At the same time the RUC will search the courtroom then seal it until the public are due to be admitted.
(prison dog to check tunnel every day morning)

(i) The RUC will search members of the public entering the courtroom.

planned → (j) Provided the Lord Chief Justice agrees the public gallery will be screened off.
feature.

(k) Kirkpatrick will be offered a bullet-proof vest.

(l) The Lord Chief Justice will be asked to direct that there should be no sittings on Fridays.

(spoke to J's next) 24/10/86 - request letter to John Steele

21/10/86

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Prison Security and Operations Division

31 October 1986

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Mr J Semple

Mr Gilmore, PIU

