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*Mr. Hill; RLB
Cullen RLB
Baker*

Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs

Attention Mr. O.Grogan

The launch of Paul Hill's book "Stolen Years" was held in the Jubilee Room in the House of Commons at 1 p.m. on Monday, 11 June 1990.

Jeremy Corbyn (Labour, Islington N.) described the case of the Guildford Four as an indictment of the British judicial system. He said Hill would not have been imprisoned for so long if he had been born in any other country. Corbyn said the PTA had been used against Hill, the Winchester Three, Eamon Waddly, Danny McBrearty and the Birmingham Six (sic.).

Hill asked those present to fight for the release of the Six. He referred to the presence of Breda Power, daughter of Billy Power. In response to a question from Brian O'Connell (RTE) he saw the release of the Six as inevitable but thought the quashing of the Guildford Four's convictions would make it more difficult. The British establishment could not say the injustice suffered by the Four was an isolated incident if they also released the Six. In response to another question Hill said he did not believe the IRA's bombing campaign in Britain would delay the release of the Six. He said that campaign predated their arrest.

Hill was asked if he had views on whether the Irish Government would raise the question of the Birmingham Six (in Copenhagen). Hill said he hoped "that it would given it now holds the EC chairmanship". He thought the CSCE forum would be "an ideal place to raise it". He said he had heard we would not raise it but he still hoped that we would.

Hill's book refers to the development of interest in their case among political figures in Ireland. He details the meeting, arranged by the Embassy, between Errol and Theresa Smalley, and the Taoiseach in 1988 and details the Taoiseach's undertaking to raise the case with the British Government. Hill also notes the interest of the Tanaiste as then Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as that of Senator Paschal Mooney. The book has a photograph of the Smalleys meeting the Taoiseach as well as a picture of Hill and Conlon on the Late Late Show on Friday 3 November 1989.

You will recall that Errol Smalley, together with Hill and Conlon, had meetings with the Minister and the Taoiseach on that day. These meetings were arranged through the Embassy. On that occasion Smalley and Hill raised the question of Hill's conviction for the Shaw murder. Hill remains uneasy about the delay in having that question resolved. As previously reported to you he was very agitated when I saw him on 18 October last to hand over a copy of the Government statement issued earlier that day. He was extremely worried that even if both the Guildford and Woolwich convictions were quashed he would remain in prison for the Shaw murder. In response to a question at the Press Conference yesterday Hill was unable to say when this question would be resolved.

Hill said he was cynical about the May Inquiry. The fact that the (then) 18 year old assistant will not testify devalues this inquiry, he claimed. On a personal note Hill avoided referring to the recent breakup of his marriage. Errol Smalley told me Hill had been hurt badly by being left by his American wife. He had already been let down by Gina Clarke when first convicted. Hill said he hoped eventually to live in the US or Ireland but not in England.

James J. Hennessy
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