



## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

17, GROSVENOR PLACE,  
SW1X 7HR

Telephone: 071-235 2171

TELEX: 916104

Fax: 071-245 6961

Confidential

27 March 1991

Mr Dermot Gallagher  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin 2

Irish Miscarriage of Justice Cases in Britain

Dear Assistant Secretary

Please refer to your letter of 20 March 1991 to the Ambassador regarding the Birmingham Six's comments on the plight of other "innocent" prisoners in English jails. Having looked again at a video of the World in Action programme which was seen by the Taoiseach, it would appear to me that the cases they stressed - Carl Bridgewater and Tottenham Three - are essentially English.

When I visited them in prison, the Six often commented on the English miscarriage of justice cases which they felt were being neglected, a point reinforced by Hugh Callaghan in conversation when he called to the Embassy last week (he came to get an Irish passport; I took him to lunch and am taking him to the soccer international this evening).

The Tottenham Three, black people accused of murdering a policeman in the Broadwater Farm riots, have never claimed any connection with Ireland. The Carl Bridgewater case is less clearcut in that one of those convicted, Patrick Molloy, was Irish; he died in prison ten years ago. Judging by their names and the connection with Molloy, it is possible that two of the others convicted for the murder, Vincent and Michael Hickey, have Irish connections but they have never claimed to

be Irish nor have they approached the Embassy to our knowledge.

The following are the possible miscarriage of justice cases with Irish connections which have come to our attention;

#### Martin Foran

Because of an active campaign, Foran is the best known of the non-political cases. Convicted originally for robbery, he is now serving a sentence for having taken a medical orderly hostage in prison. The Embassy has been following his case in detail for some time and he has been visited a number of times.

Foran has always claimed that he was framed on the robbery charge by the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad. However, we understand from official sources that the West Yorkshire Police's investigation into the case has not cast doubt on the safety of the conviction. This is expected to be announced shortly.

Foran's solicitor has now lodged an appeal for his release on parole on medical grounds. Foran's health is poor following a hunger strike to protest his innocence and an unsuccessful stomach operation some years ago. The Embassy has recently made an approach at a senior level to the Foreign Office in support of his appeal for parole.

Foran is a native of Limerick and the Minister for Industry and Commerce has taken a keen interest in the case.

#### Michael Bromell

Bromell, another non-political prisoner, is also a West Midlands Serious Crime Squad case. Following an investigation by the West Yorkshire Police, his case was referred to the Home Office for a decision on whether or not it should be sent to the Court of Appeal. We understand informally from official sources that a decision is being delayed pending developments in other West Midlands cases. Reading between the lines, it would appear that the West Yorkshire investigation may not have turned up sufficient new evidence for a successful appeal and the authorities may be waiting to see the degree to which the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad is discredited in general. In this connection, we understand that the freeing this week by the Court of Appeal of a Mr Wellington may be positive from Bromell's point of view. We get the impression that, unlike Foran, Bromell has the sympathy of the authorities here.

#### Other West Midlands cases

There are a number of other cases believed to be Irish which have been looked at by the West Yorkshire Police as part of their investigation into the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad. Patrick Purcell, who was convicted of rape, has been given leave to appeal and his case is expected to be listed shortly. Liam Walsh's case has been "dispensed with" and we

understand he is unlikely to persist with an appeal. Neither of these two nor James Corrigan, another West Midlands case who is believed to be Irish, have made any effort to contact the Embassy.

Judith Ward

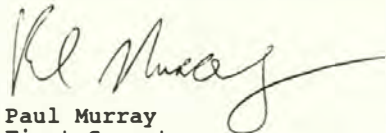
Convicted of the M62 motorway bombing in 1974, Ward is believed by the Birmingham Six and many others involved in miscarriage of justice cases to be innocent. This view is also shared, to some extent at any rate, by some Home Office officials who deal with miscarriage of justice cases. Discreet enquiries have been made to us, on the basis that some excuse for reopening the case is necessary, but we have understood that she is a British citizen and that we would therefore not have any standing in the case. However, her father may have been born in Ireland, and this would presumably give her dual Irish and British nationality.

Ward herself has never sought our assistance and has let it be known to campaigners such as the Labour MP Jermey Corbyn that she does not wish her case to be taken up. Also, she has never bothered to appeal. Some campaigners have expressed the view privately that Ward may be taking this line because she has been given some indication of release on license within the next few years but I wonder if the Home Office would bother trying to float her case if this were true. Ward is generally regarded as a fantasist who alternately accepts and denies guilt.

Patrick McLoughlin

There have always been doubts about the soundness of McLoughlin's conviction. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiracy to cause explosions in 1986, essentially on the basis of a single piece of fingerprint evidence. McLoughlin himself has consistently maintained his innocence and a number of individuals and organisations, such as the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas, have shown an interest in his case. An Embassy observer attended his unsuccessful appeal in 1988.

Yours sincerely



Paul Murray  
First Secretary