

of Ireland - visit of... (2)

Prime Minister: This is the answer (a v. clear one) to the question you raised this afternoon.



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

Am...
- 4/9

4 September 1979

Dear Michael

EXTRADITION

The extradition of people in the United Kingdom to other countries takes place under three different statutes.

Extradition to the Republic of Ireland takes place under the Backing of Warrants (Republic of Ireland) Act 1965 which covers the extradition to the Republic of citizens of other countries. I attach a table giving the number and offence classification of those extradited to the Republic of Ireland in the last three years and for part of 1975. The numbers are substantial. Although detailed statistics are not kept by nationality, the majority are citizens of the Republic of Ireland but some of these may have, or are entitled to claim, our citizenship as well. But they also include our own citizens; celebrated cases in recent years include that of Carlisle, a member of a Protestant para-military organisation who was extradited to the Republic of Ireland early this year in connection with postal bombs; and the two Littlejohn brothers who were extradited to the Republic of Ireland on charges of robbery - both escaped from custody while in the Republic and one, when recaptured in the United Kingdom, was again returned to the Republic.

The readiness of the United Kingdom to extradite freely its own as well as other countries' nationals is borne out by the other two branches of extradition. Extradition to Commonwealth countries takes place under the Fugitive Offenders Act 1967 and in the last six years 30 people have been extradited under that Act. The majority were nationals of the requesting Commonwealth countries concerned, but a substantial proportion were our own citizens. Extradition to foreign countries takes place under the Extradition Act 1870 and over the last six years 45 people have been extradited, of whom ~~the~~ great majority were nationals of the requesting state, though this total does include several of our own citizens as well. A number of foreign countries have, or used to have, a prohibition on extraditing their own nationals and nineteenth century bilateral extradition treaties between those countries and the United Kingdom sometimes contain a reciprocal prohibition on the extradition of our own nationals. For some years we have been actively seeking to renegotiate these treaties and in 1979, for example, a prohibition on extradition of nationals of either country between the United Kingdom and West Germany was removed.

Individual cases in recent years where our own citizens have been extradited include the cases of Godber to Hong Kong (1975), Gould to Australia (1977), the Jeffs brothers to New Zealand (1977), McDonald to the Netherlands (1978) and the Howe brothers to Australia in 1979.

I am sending copies of this letter to George Walden (FCO), Roger Facer (MOD), Roy Harrington (NIO) and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

*Y
Lam. or
John*

J. A. CHILCOT

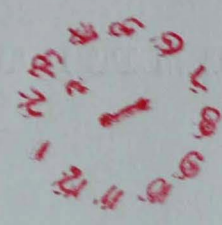
Michael Alexander, Esq.

NUMBERS OF FUGITIVES EXTRADITED TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	Aug-Dec 1975	1976	1977	1978
Murder	-	1	-	-
Other offences against the person.....	1	1	3	2
Sexual offences	-	-	1	-
Theft Act offences ...	12	19	24	18
Forgery	5	-	1	2
Other offences	2	6	2	4
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TOTAL	20	27	31	26
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REPUBLIC OF INDIA



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