

Prime Minister  
Agree to revoke, immediately the  
Election results are known, any Order against a person  
elected to the Westminster Government?

HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

This looks OK to me except in the  
(unlikely) circumstances in which  
it appeared on 10 June that there  
was going to be a change of Government:  
in those circumstances, surely the Home  
Secretary should consult the Opposition on 10 June  
before lifting the Order.

31 May 1983

FERB

31-52

PREVENTION OF TERRORISM

EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

As you will recall, on 8 December 1982 the Home Secretary signed  
exclusion orders against Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and  
Daniel Morrison. At least two of them were intending to come  
to London to see Mr Livingstone. All three are candidates for  
election on 9 June. It is more than likely that Adams will be  
elected (in West Belfast) possible that Morrison (Mid-Ulster)  
will be elected but less likely that McGuinness (Foyle) will be  
elected. Another Provisional Sinn Fein (PSF) candidate (Donaldson  
in East Belfast) is the subject of an exclusion order but is unlikely  
to be elected. We believe that, if one of them is elected, he  
will seek to come immediately to Great Britain to try to obtain  
a propaganda advantage from the exclusion order.

By the way the Northern Ireland court cases where he  
should have some idea of how things are going  
here. It  
may be  
necessary  
to consult  
as you  
say just  
not

The police case for an order against Adams (and the others)  
remains as strong as it was six months ago but the Home Secretary  
believes that it would be right to revoke an order in respect of  
any person who is elected to Westminster, including Adams. If  
this is to be done, it will be best to revoke the order immediately  
the result is known, and the Home Secretary would therefore be grate-  
ful if the Prime Minister could be forewarned of the possibility at  
this stage. Counting in all the Northern Ireland seats will begin  
at 9.00 am on 10 June and the results should be known about lunchtime.

Any PSF Members of Parliament are most unlikely to take up their  
seats, but the Home Secretary believes that it would be hard to  
defend using an executive order which could be represented as  
discouraging them from pursuing peaceful politics and making it  
difficult for them to pursue their constituents' interests  
particularly on subjects reserved to London-based Ministers.  
Whereas in December the Home Secretary judged that PIRA's morale  
would be helped by the proposed visit to London, he believes that  
in the new circumstances envisaged PIRA would be most encouraged  
by the potential propaganda value of maintaining an order in force  
against an elected MP. The Home Secretary has not discussed the  
issue with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland but he  
understands that Mr Prior supports this approach.

/The ....

Mr Prior's views are set out in  
the attached letter. He is content, but  
would like to be consulted before any  
exclusion order is actually revoked.

Robin Butler, Esq

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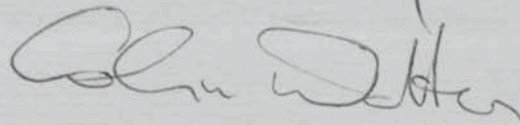
If these people are  
elected. I believe  
we have to revoke  
the order. But I  
don't know what  
I am entitled to  
do it now.



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The Home Secretary would therefore be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister is content that, should the present Government be re-elected on 9 June, any exclusion orders in force against candidates successful in the general election should immediately be revoked.

I am copying this letter to John Lyon. (NIO).

Yours sincerely  


C J WALTERS

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31 May 1965

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

2 June 1983

Dear Colin,

Prevention of Terrorism : Exclusion of Members of Parliament

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 31 May to me about the exclusion orders against Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and Daniel Morrison. The Prime Minister believes that it will be necessary to revoke the exclusion orders against any of these who are elected to the Westminster Parliament. In addition to the considerations mentioned by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, it will be necessary to take stock of the trend of the overall General Election results on 10 June. Although this contingency looks unlikely at present, if it appeared that the present Government were not likely to be returned, the Home Secretary might feel it appropriate to consult the Opposition before revoking the orders.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office).

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

C.J. Walters, Esq.,  
Home Office.

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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Willie Rickett Esq  
PS/Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

1 June 1983

*Dear Willie*

I am writing to confirm that on balance Mr Prior accepts the Home Secretary's intention expressed in Colin Walters' letter of 31 May to revoke the exclusion order against any elected MP.

Mr Prior considers, however, that while at present it seems right to revoke the order, it would be prudent to review the situation quickly in the light of the actual election results in Northern Ireland and to take account of any statements or actions on the part of Adams or others which might lead to a different conclusion. Mr Prior would, therefore, be grateful if the Home Secretary would consult him again before any exclusion order is revoked.

I am copying this letter to Colin Walters.

*Yours ever*

*Dave Hill*

D A HILL

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