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PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T11B/86

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TO IMMEDIATE THE HAGUE  
TELNO 19  
OF 211045Z JANUARY 86  
INFO ROUTINE DUBLIN

YOUR TELNOS 020 AND 027: ARREST OF IRA TERRORISTS IN AMSTERDAM  
1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO  
MR LUBBERS

QUOTE

I HAVE BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF THE EVENTS WHICH LED UP TO  
THE ARREST IN AMSTERDAM RECENTLY OF TWO PERSONS WHOSE  
EXTRADITION IN CONNECTION WITH TERRORIST OFFENCES IS BEING SOUGHT  
BY THE UK. I WAS ALSO VERY PLEASED TO HEAR OF THE SEIZURE OF A  
SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

MAY I EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO YOU FOR ALL  
THE COOPERATION SHOWN BY THE NETHERlands AUTHORITIES IN THIS  
MATTER.

UNQUOTE.

2. YOU SHOULD ASK THAT THIS MESSAGE BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL  
THE RESULTS OF THE COURT PROCEEDINGS IN THE NETHERLANDS ARE  
KNOWN.

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PS/MR EGGAR  
PS/PUS  
MR DEREK THOMAS  
SIR W HARDING  
MR GOODALL  
MR BARRINGTON  
MR O'NEILL  
MR RATFORD  
MR D C THOMAS  
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BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 January 1986

Dear Colin,

ARREST OF IRA TERRORISTS IN AMSTERDAM

Thank you for your letter of 17 January about the arrest of suspected IRA terrorists in Amsterdam.

BS/

The Prime Minister agrees to send a message to Mr. Lubbers and is content with the text enclosed with your letter, with one amendment marked on the attached copy.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Neil Ward (Northern Ireland Office).

Yours sincerely,  
Charles Powell

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

DSG



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ck  
①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 January 1986

Dear Charles,

Yes no

Prime Minister  
Agree to send  
this message?

CDD  
17/1

Arrest of IRA Terrorists in Amsterdam

I enclose a draft message of thanks which the Prime Minister might like to send to Mr Lubbers following the arrest on 16 January of three suspected IRA terrorists in Amsterdam.

I enclose, for ease of reference, an article from today's Irish Times and two telegrams from our Embassy in The Hague.

Sir Geoffrey Howe is sending a message to Mr van den Broek.

I am copying this letter to Neil Ward in the Northern Ireland Office.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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OUT TELEGRAM

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10 YOUR TELNOS 020 AND 027: ARREST OF IRA TERRORISTS IN AMSTERDAM  
11 1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to  
12 Mr Lubbers  
13 Quote  
14 "I have been kept fully informed of the events which lead up to  
15 the arrest in Amsterdam yesterday of three persons whose  
16 extradition in connection with terrorist offences is being sought  
17 by the UK.  
18  
19  
20 May I express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you for all  
21 the cooperation shown by the Netherlands authorities in this  
22 matter.  
23 Unquote.  
24 2. You should ask that this message be kept confidential until  
25 the results of the court proceedings in the Netherlands are  
26 known.  
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28 HOWE  
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification

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For distribution order see Page

Catchword:



# Maze escapers and gun shipment seized by Dutch

From Jim Cusack in Belfast and Basil Miller in Amsterdam

DUTCH police, believed to be acting on British Intelligence information, yesterday arrested three suspected Provisional IRA members and recovered a major arms and explosives shipment in an Amsterdam suburb.



Brendan McFarlane

The three were last night named as the Maze escapers Brendan McFarlane (34), Gerard Kelly, (33) and Anthony Kelly (25), all of whom were serving life terms and who escaped in September 1983 during a mass break-out by 38 prisoners.

They were captured by a special squad of about 50 police while they were asleep in a rented flat at Buiten Veldert on the outskirts of Amsterdam. They were said to have offered no resistance.

It is believed they were taken to Amsterdam police headquarters for questioning about the arms find and are due to appear in court today. It is understood the Dutch have received warrants for their extradition to Britain in connection with the Maze escape and the murder of a prison warden stabbed to death during the break-out.

Dutch police said they discovered a number of false passports and arms manuals in the flat. Close to the apartment building they searched a transport container in which they found the weapons.

The haul included 17 FAL semi-automatic weapons, one Kalshnikov rifle, three Belgian 9mm FN handguns, two handgrenades and four oil drums containing nitrobenzene and 70,000 rounds of NATO-issue ammunition of various calibres. The 17 semi-automatic rifles and the handguns are also NATO-issue and it would appear that the arms came from a European arms source. Nitrobenzene is an explosive chemical used in bomb-making.

The arms haul is the most significant discovery of Provisional IRA weapons since the Irish security forces and Gardai seized the Marita Ann fishing vessel off the southern coast in September, 1984. The Amsterdam discovery would also suggest that following the penetration of their American operation, the Provisionals have switched to European sources.

According to one source in Amsterdam yesterday the three men had been staying at the flat for some time. It was said to have been rented last August by a man calling himself Mr Thompson. Local people said the three men exercised in the area each day, taking long walks. The man who called himself Mr Thompson was said by neighbours to have been smartly dressed and courteous.

It appeared that Dutch Intelligence, the Binnenlands Veiligheids Dienst, were alerted by British Intelligence about the three men at 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday by telex. The apartment block was placed under surveillance and the arrests were made at 5.00 a.m. yesterday. The arrest operation took 30 seconds.

The RUC and British police were last night holding back any comment about the arrests but the RUC said it had warrants for the three. An RUC spokesman said it was a matter for Dutch police how they would deal with the extradition applications.

Of the three, Brendan McFarlane, from the Ardoyne, Belfast, is probably the best known. He was serving five life sentences with a minimum recommended sentence of 25 years for the murder of five Protestants killed during an IRA bomb attack on the Bayardo bar on the Shankill Road in 1976.

He was said to have assumed the role of "commanding officer" of the Provisional prisoners in the Maze following the death of Bobby Sands. It is understood he is also sought for questioning by the gardai in connection with the killing of a Garda and a soldier during the operation to free Mr Don Tidey at Ballinamore, Co Leitrim, in December, 1983.

Gerard Kelly, from Ballymurphy, Belfast, was serving a life sentence for his part in the Old Bailey bombing in London in 1973.

Anthony Kelly, Garvan Place, Derry, was sentenced to indefinite detention in 1980 for killing an RUC man.



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 FM THE HAGUE  
 TO DESKBY 161300Z FCO  
 TELNO 27  
 OF 161715Z JANUARY 86  
 INFO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN

OUR TELNO 020 AND TELECON HALL/HAND (NEWS DEPARTMENT):  
 ARREST OF SUSPECTED IRA TERRORISTS IN AMSTERDAM

1. STORY BROKE IN PRESS HERE AT 1445Z FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY POLICE SPOKESMAN IN AMSTERDAM, WHO GAVE DETAILS OF OPERATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF THE THREE MEN AT 5:00AM THIS MORNING. HE ALSO GAVE DETAILS OF ARMS SEIZED. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO GET AN AUTHORITATIVE ACCOUNT OF STATEMENT BY THE DUTCH POLICE: BUT APPARENTLY SPOKESMAN ALSO STATED THAT POLICE HAD ACTED ON A TIP-OFF FROM THE BVD (DUTCH SECURITY SERVICE) AND THAT AN EXTRADITION REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED YESTERDAY (15 JANUARY) FROM 'NORTHERN IRELAND' IN RESPECT OF TWO OF THE MEN WHO HAD, ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, ESCAPED FROM THE MAZE IN THE MASS BREAKOUT IN 1983. SPOKESMAN ALSO GAVE THE INITIALS OF THE TWO CONCERNED. ALL ABOVE IS BASED ON A VERBAL ACCOUNT OF POLICE STATEMENT GIVEN TO US BY LOCAL WRITERS CORRESPONDENT.

2. PRESS (REUTERS, BBC, DAILY TELEGRAPH AND AFP) HAVE NATURALLY BEEN TRYING TO ESTABLISH THE NAMES AND IDENTITIES OF THE THREE MEN, ESPECIALLY THE TWO FOR WHOM EXTRADITION HAS BEEN REQUESTED. INFORMATION OFFICER HAS STUCK TO THE LINE THAT WE CAN MAKE NO COMMENT ON IDENTITIES UNTIL THESE HAVE BEEN RELEASED BY THE DUTCH, WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO HAPPEN UNTIL THE MEN ARE CHARGED. WE UNDERSTAND THE MEN WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE AMSTERDAM PUBLIC PROSECUTOR TOMORROW MORNING (FRIDAY 17 JANUARY). IO ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF AN 'EXTRADITION REQUEST FROM NORTHERN IRELAND'.

MARGETSON

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