From the Private Secretary

Dear Nick,

GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT: STATUS OF THOSE STILL FACING CHARGES

The Prime Minister would be grateful for advice on a problem which will emerge in the spring, assuming the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement stays on track.

There are an unknown number of people facing charges or wanted for questioning in Northern Ireland who have fled and now reside elsewhere, mainly in the South. Some of these may be merely under suspicion, others may have warrants out for their arrest, while others may be the subject of extradition procedures. For those associated with a paramilitary party on ceasefire, they would be due for release in May if they were arrested before then.

Would these individuals still be subject to arrest and trial if arrested after May? And what will happen to outstanding extradition cases, in the US as well as the Republic?

There is a second question as to how individuals can find out whether or not they are subject to charges or liable to being questioned by the police for past incidents.

I should be grateful for advice on these two points by Monday, 10 January.

Yours ever,

JOHN SAWERS

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