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By 9/9
1. Mr. R. Jones
2. Mr. Stephens
3. Mr. Jackson
8/9/87
2. Mr. Mason

- cc: PS/Secretary of State (B&L)
- PS/PUS (B&L)
- PS/Sir K Bloomfield
- Mr Stephens
- Mr Burns
- Mr Steele
- Mr Chesterton
- Mr Elliott
- Mr Wood
- Mr Bell
- Mr McVeigh
- Mr Jackson
- Mr Ginn
- Mr G Hewitt

PS/Mr Stanley (B&L)

Pl. Gite
Mr J Stephens
Pl have this
hired SJ

MAZE ESCAPEES' TRIAL

1. The purpose of this note is to advise the Minister that the Maze Escapees' Trial will reconvene before the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lowry, on Wednesday 9 September 1987 at Crumlin Road Courthouse. 24.9.87

2. The security measures outlined to the Minister in Mr Kendrick's previous paper (Tab A) will be reinstated for the duration of these proceedings estimated to last a further 4-5 weeks. Because of the security risks involved in transporting the prisoners from HMP Maze to Crumlin Road Courthouse on a daily basis they will again be held during the weekly sittings in HMP Belfast and moved to the Crown Court each day via the secure tunnel link under the Crumlin Road.

3. As this is likely to be the final phase of the trial the prisoners may well seek to make an escape attempt and there is some intelligence to that effect. Consequently I take the view that returning them (other than Kelly and McManus) to HMP Maze at weekends would be a sensible additional precaution, partly

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because Maze is inherently more secure than Belfast and partly to make the planning of an escape more difficult. Kelly and McManus are being kept at Belfast because they are only held on awaiting trial warrants relating to the escape.

4. Arrangements have therefore been made with the police and the army for the 16 defendants to be transported on a weekly basis by helicopter between HMP Maze and HMP Belfast (leaving Belfast on a Thursday evening and returning on a Sunday evening). It will be open, of course, to modify these arrangements if it is felt necessary to break the pattern of movement.

5. In the event of bad weather contingency plans have been drawn up with the RUC to transport the prisoners by road. This eventuality would only occur on Sundays. If adverse weather conditions prevail on a Thursday they would remain in HMP Belfast over the weekend.

6. Counsel for the prisoners may well attempt to make an issue of the weekly movement before the court but the Lord Chief Justice has made it clear that he considers the security of the prisoners a matter for the prison authorities. We will ensure that legal visits are available at Maze.

7. I will keep the Minister advised of any further significant security aspects as and when they arise.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J B Semple'.

J B SEMPLE

Deputy Director of Prison Security &
Operations Division

7 September 1987

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