

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

CONFIDENTIAL



Prime Minister

cc. Mr. Ingham²

For academic interest only.
Mr. Morrison was beaten.

Mr. Fletcher

HOME OFFICE

FERB

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE

LONDON SW1H 9AT

18 June 1984

Dear Robin,

The Home Secretary has considered whether it would be necessary to revoke the exclusion order against Mr Danny Morrison if he is declared elected to the European Parliament. We understand that the result is likely to be known about 3.00 pm this afternoon.

The Home Secretary has decided after careful consideration and consultation with the Northern Ireland Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that it would be necessary to revoke the exclusion order against Morrison if he is elected. Although Morrison's connections with the Provisional IRA are as strong as ever the police would not expect him to be able to involve himself actively with terrorism from such a public position. His propaganda activities will be predictable: but the NIO have drawn attention to the risk of widening support for PIRA if we were seen to obstruct his duties in the post to which he had been elected.

The conclusive factor, in the Home Secretary's view, is the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's advice that the Government would be in breach of the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities if we obstructed Morrison's free movement to or from the place of meeting of the Assembly. We should so obstruct him if we forced him to travel via Dublin, which would often be much more inconvenient. He would, I understand, be able to claim plausibly the need to conduct some business in London. There are no powers to limit the applicability of an exclusion order so as to permit transit through Heathrow or specific visits to London on MEP business.

The Press line will need to make clear, if he is elected, that the decision rested to a significant effect on the legal position.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Len Appleyard, Graham Sandiford and John & Graham.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Taylor

H H TAYLOR

F E R Butler, Esq

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