

PRIME MINISTER

DOLOURS PRICE

You asked for a note on the story in the Express about the possibility that Dolours Price might come to Britain. The story in the Express is just not true as the attached background note makes clear. The essential point is that at your insistence her life licence requires her to obtain the Northern Ireland Secretary's permission before leaving the Province. Before she obtains such permission she must state her destination. If she travelled to the mainland without having first obtained permission she would be in contravention of her life licence and therefore subject to arrest and re-imprisonment upon arrival. Even if this were not the case, she would still be subject to the possibility of an exclusion order under the Prevention of Terrorism Act but the former should be sufficient to safeguard.

I should say that the Northern Ireland Office are rather opposed to explaining the terms of Dolours Price's life licence in public but I do not think that this line is either reasonable or sustainable.

2 December 1983

BACKGROUND NOTE

Dolours Price received a life sentence in 1973 for her part in the IRA bomb attack on the Old Bailey. She was released on licence from HMP Armagh on 22 April 1981, following the onset of an illness of psychological origin, which caused profound depression and dangerous weight loss. (Her sister Marion had been released on similar grounds on 30th April 1980). A condition of Dolours Price's life licence - imposed at the Prime Minister's request - requires her to obtain the permission of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland before leaving the Province. She has been granted permission on a number of occasions to travel to the Republic of Ireland and she was today given permission to travel to Spain on holiday following her recent marriage to actor Stephen Rea. It is understood that she will fly there directly from Dublin.

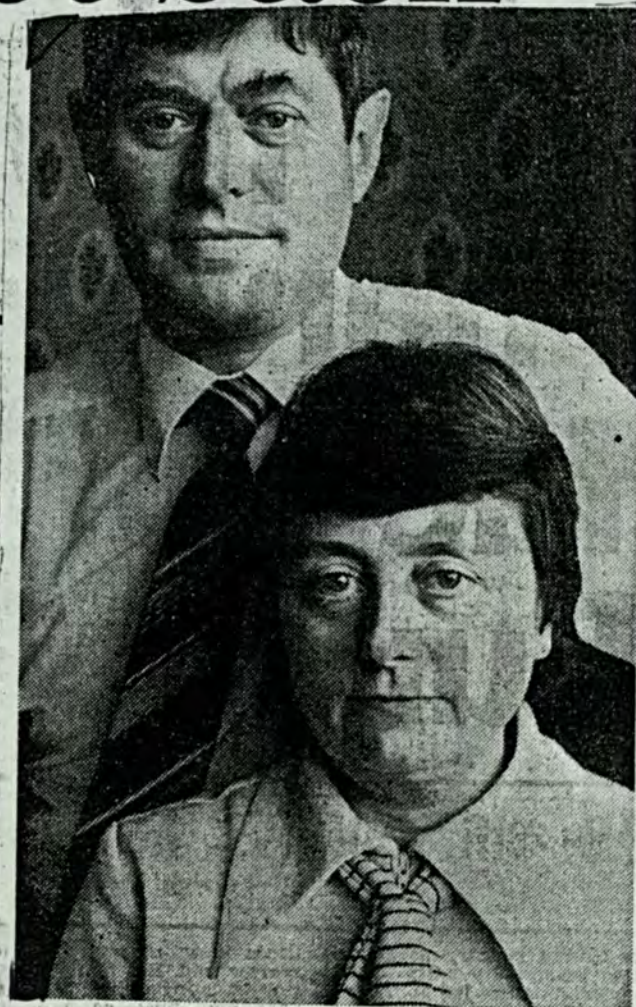
2. There has been some speculation in the press that Dolours Price would accompany her husband to the London Film Festival, where a film in which he appears is to be shown. It is understood from Dolours Price herself that she has no intention of doing so, and from the film company concerned that Mr Rea has not requested tickets for the film in question. The fact that she has been given permission to travel to Spain for a holiday appears to confirm this.

3. We understand that neither the RUC or the Garda Siochana have any intelligence to indicate that Ms Price has become reinvolved in the IRA since her release from prison. If she comes to Great Britain she will be liable to examination on entry under the port control arrangements in the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1976, and it will be for the police force who carry out the examination to decide whether to apply for an exclusion order against her. Press allegations (most recently in today's Daily Express: cutting attached) that the Home Secretary has decided to allow her to enter Great Britain are therefore incorrect: no decision will be taken until an application is received from the police.

TEN-YEAR ANGUISH OF POLICEMAN IN OLD BAILEY CAR BOMB BLAST

How can they let back
the girl bomber
who ruined my
husband's life?

scissors



Angry: The Hines PICTURE: WILLIAM LOVELACE

2/12/83

Express 7-



Free: bomb girl Dolours Price

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

COURAGEOUS Carina Hine spoke yesterday of her horror and revulsion that former IRA bomb girl Dolours Price is being allowed to visit London.

For the terrorist sisters whose very name evokes bitter memories of death and carnage, ruined her life when their car bomb maimed her policeman husband Malcolm outside the Old Bailey 10 years ago.

She has come to terms with his injuries, the permanent limp, the fear of an amputation of his right leg, but she cannot come to terms or accept that Dolours Price will walk the streets of the capital again this weekend.

Police Constable Hine, 49, sat silently by her side, gagged by the rules of the City of London Police that forbid him from making public comments.

Mother of two Carina, anger in her face, spoke of the unfair life sentence the callous bombers handed out to them on March 8, 1973.

She said: "Look at my husband, he'll never be the same again."

'Punishment or justice?'

"He has lost some of the best years of his life. I'm horrified to hear that Dolours Price can come back to this country, a free woman, just like that.

"Is the Government so spineless that they won't ban her?"

"They promised at the time the bombers would be punished. Dolours Price served only eight years when the judge recommended a minimum of 20. Is that punishment, is that justice?"

The question hung in the air in the sitting room of their family home at Swanley, Kent. She did not want an



Flashback: The Queen's visit

By MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY,

answer, to her it was just a statement of fact.

"That bomb, that girl," she said, "took away the sexual side of our marriage but it's something we learned to live with, and come to terms with."

"It's like the rest of our lives—we have had to adapt. Life still has to go on."

"He had done nothing to harm her. He was only doing his job."

"Yet it is my husband who is still suffering, not the terrorists like Dolours Price."

Mrs Hine glanced up at the picture that has pride of place in their home, a photograph of the Queen visiting Malcolm in Bart's Hospital after the bombing. Both are smiling.

Today Malcolm Hine still smiles but it masks the pain of his body so badly damaged by the Price sisters' bomb that colleagues advised rescuers: "Leave him, he's dead."

His right calf muscle was blown away by the blast; an artery severed in the upper

leg and they found a huge hole in his back.

Police Constable Hine, now a CID clerk at Snow Hill police station, retires in two years' time.

The police have been very good to him, and considerate. He sits in a high chair by his desk — more comfortable than an ordinary chair—and still dreams of his days on the beat. He loved being out among the people.

Once he had survived the bomb blast near the George pub he knew he had a future.

Clouded with pain

Ten years on, he still has, but he knows it will continue to be clouded with pain.

Happily, for Malcolm, he has his wife and sons Andrew, 17 and Colin, 15, to comfort him.

Dolours Price arrives at the weekend for the premiere of the film *Loose Connections*, starring her actor husband Stephen Rea, at the National Film Theatre.

Her victims would much rather she stayed in Ulster.