



FCS/90/048

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ireland/Republic of Ireland

1. Thank you for your letter of 19 ^{Mar.} February about the nomenclature of the Republic of Ireland, which your Secretariat have copied to No 10 and the Home Office.

2. I agree that it is of overriding interest to ensure that extradition does not break down on this point of nomenclature. Accordingly I accept that warrants, including those from Northern Ireland which name an address in the Republic should show that address as in "Ireland". In telling the Irish Attorney this I hope that you will make it clear that the change has no effect on the status of Northern Ireland.

3. At the same time this decision will become public and may well cause pressure from the Irish over time to seek a similar change elsewhere. The judgment in the McGimpsey case is the most obvious occasion on which the Supreme Court could again create spurious difficulties which the Irish Government will nevertheless feel bound to exploit. Even though there is no legal need to insist on using the "Republic of Ireland", we could concede further changes only at some political cost. We should make changes only when when we have to or if there is some advantage in so doing.

4. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, the Northern Ireland Secretary, the Home Secretary and Sir Robin Butler.

DH.

(DOUGLAS HURD)

