

Jeve

22 June 1984

The Prime Minister has seen and noted the Lord Advocate's minute of 21 June about a recent High Court ruling.

The Prime Minister has noted the present position and would be grateful to be kept in touch with developments.

(David Barclay)

Mrs Christine Duncan,
Lord Advocate's Department.

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Prime Minister (2)

To be aware. Although the Lord Advocate does not expect anyone to be let off entirely, those who may have to be released pending trial include people charged with attempted murder and offences under the Firearms Act.

Dubs
24/6

PRIME MINISTER

Yesterday three judges in the High Court in Glasgow ruled that there had been a procedural defect in bringing four men to trial and the accused had to be released until a new trial date could be fixed.

The Crown has appealed against this decision and the appeal is expected to be heard on 10th July.

There has been some speculation in the Scottish press that following this decision a number of accused charged with serious crimes including murder and rape but not yet brought to trial may have to be let off. Even if the Crown Appeal is unsuccessful it is not anticipated that there will be any such consequence and that those trials which have had to be postponed will take place next month. A small number of accused at present in custody may have to be released before their new trial dates because of the 110 day rule, but the great majority of cases are unaffected.

Comdn of Lockdown

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