



## **press briefing note for october 2004 press event**

**Embargoed until 00.01 on Wednesday 20 October**

**The National Archives, Kew, will make a new selection of Government documents available to the media on Tuesday 19 October from 9:30 to 17:00. The files will be available free to the public, at Kew, from Wednesday 20 October**

The release will include:

- A Home Office file (1927-1930) detailing the lengths the authorities went to in their surveillance of the National Unemployed Workers Movement (NUWM) during the 1926 General Strike. A memo in the file indicates that Churchill considers that the arrival of the miners 'in London footsore and hungry would create a very difficult situation'. It goes on to state that Churchill's 'own view...is that they should be intercepted while still some distance off, treated decently and tactfully, but turned back somehow or other.'
- Home Office files (1926-1927) referring to large sums of money being sent from trade union organisations across Europe and Russia in support of the miners during the 1926 General Strike
- Home Office files (1920-1925) detailing the measures taken by the British authorities to deal with spiralling Sinn Fein outrages in England. Minutes of a conference held at the Home Office include a submission from Sir Basil Thompson (Head of Special Branch) that he will issue a special summary to chief constables on how to deal with Sinn Fein providing that each chief constable burns his copy as soon as it is read.
- Department of the Environment file (1989 -1990) about the safety measures put in place following the Hillsborough Stadium disaster in 1989 when 96 Liverpool football supporters were killed

- War Office files (1946-1948) detailing the murder of POWs in various camps across Europe. The files contain some disturbing images of the victims.

### **Notes for Editors:**

- **All journalists attending the event should bring a valid reader's ticket.** If you don't already have a reader's ticket please bring suitable identification and sign up for a ticket on the day. If you have lost your ticket we can replace it, but please note there will be a £2.50 charge.
- The National Archives, in Kew, west London, has one of the largest archival collections in the world, spanning 1000 years of British history, from Domesday Book to newly released government papers. The free museum and reading rooms are open to the public six days a week.
- Anyone over 18 (or over 14, if accompanied by an adult), with appropriate photographic ID, can become a reader at The National Archives and have access to The National Archives' collection of over 8 million Government documents. More than 750,000 documents are also available online at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**Please contact Darragh McElroy in the Press Office in The National Archives if you will be attending the event.** Telephone 020 8392 5277 or e-mail [darragh.mcelroy@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:darragh.mcelroy@nationalarchives.gov.uk)