

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

28 November 1980

The Prime Minister discussed with Mr. Atkins on 26 November the World in Action programme broadcast on Monday 24 November which included film of one of the hunger strikers at the Maze Prison answering a question put to him by the World in Action team.

The Prime Minister is aware that the decision to permit this question was taken in the context of the Secretary of State's policy of showing public opinion at home and abroad that the Government have nothing to hide at the Maze Prison. The Prime Minister nevertheless feels that it would be right to ensure that in future no prisoner in Northern Ireland should be permitted to be interviewed by the press or broadcasting organisations unless the Secretary of State had personally satisfied himself that there were exceptional circumstances to justify it. In reaching his decision, he should if time permits consult the Prime Minister.

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CONFIDENTIAL

13