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Inland

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 July 1981

BF 21.7.81

MESSAGE FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS

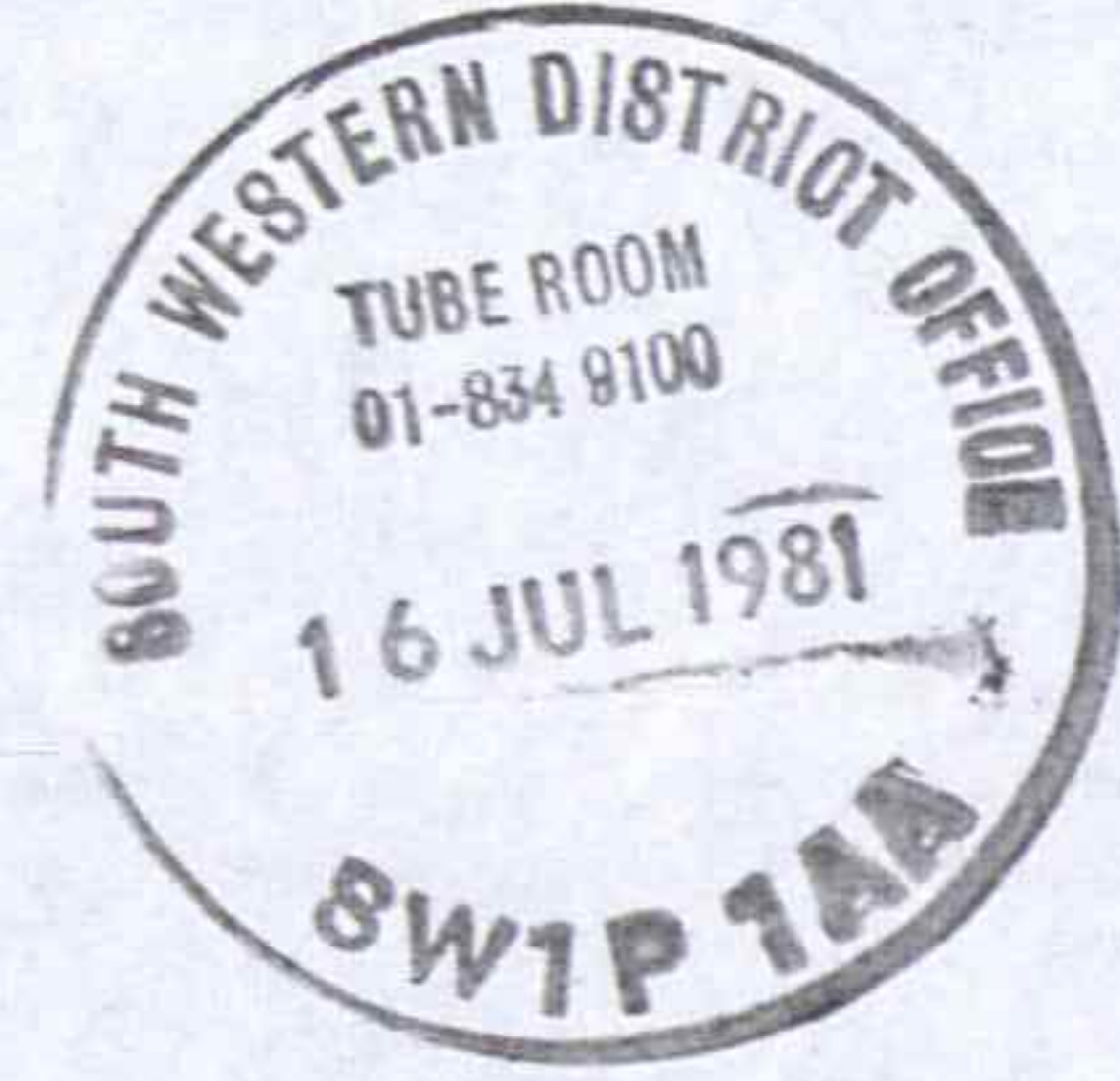
I enclose a copy of the anticipated telegram to the Prime Minister from members of the U.S. Congress about the Maze hunger strike. No doubt if you wish the Prime Minister to send a reply, you will let me have a text at an early date.

I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosure to Roderic Lyne (FCO) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Stephen Boys-Smith, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

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LT
PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER
10 DOWNING ST
LONDON SW1

DEAR PRIME MINISTER THATCHER AS MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEATH OF YET ANOTHER HUNGER STRIKER MARTIN HURSON IN THE MAZE PRISON IN NORTHERN IRELAND WE ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE APPARENT LACK OF COMMITMENT BY YOUR GOVERNMENT TO REACH THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT OF THE STRIKE WE BELIEVE THAT THE HOPEFUL INITIATIVE OF THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE AND THE RESPONSE OF THE PRISONERS DEMONSTRATE THAT A REASONABLE COMPROMISE CAN BE FOUND WHICH IS SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES WITHOUT COMPROMISING IN ANY WAY ON THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE IN THEIR STATEMENT ON JULY 4 THE PRISONERS HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC REFORMS IN THE PRISON REGIME AS THE FOUNDATION FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE HUNGER STRIKE TO END THE CURRENT DEADLY IMPASSE WE URGE YOU IMMEDIATELY TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE INTO THE MAZE PRISON TO TALK WITH THE PRISONERS ON THE BASIS OF THIS STATEMENT SURELY IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO SEEK EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS TO END THE STRIKE BEFORE ANY ADDITIONAL DEATHS OCCUR

- EDWARD M KENNEDY US SENATE
- DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN US SENATE
- CHRISTOPHER J DODD US SENATE
- THOMAS F EAGLETON US SENATE
- DANIEL K INOUE US SENATE
- PATRICK J LEAHY US SENATE
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