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DESKBY DUBLIN 060630Z

DESKBY PARIS UKMIS GENEVA HOLY SEE 060900Z

DESKBY WASHINGTON BIS NEW YORK 052000Z

FM F C O 051825Z OCT 81

TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 153 OF 5 OCTOBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE HOLY SEE

INFO : IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, BIS NEW YORK, PARIS, UKMIS GENEVA.

NORTHERN IRELAND : END OF HUNGER STRIKE : STATEMENT BY NORTHERN
IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE : MIPT

TEXT BEGINS

'THE HUNGER STRIKE HAS ENDED, AS IT BEGAN, BY THE VOLUNTARY
ACTION OF THE PROTESTORS. IT IS TIME TO HEAL THE DEEP WOUNDS
AND FRESH DIVISIONS CAUSED BY THE STRIKE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE
THE PRISONS, AND HELP TO BRING TO AN END THE VIOLENCE WHICH FOR
SO LONG HAD PREVENTED THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
MENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

2. ON OCTOBER 2 I SAID THAT I WOULD BE MAKING A STATEMENT
ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRISON SYSTEM. BOTH MY PREDECESSOR
AND I WERE ALWAYS DETERMINED TO BE REASONABLE AND FLEXIBLE AND
TO SEEK IMPROVEMENTS WHERE THEY COULD BE MADE. WE ALSO MADE IT
CLEAR THAT WE WOULD NOT ACT UNDER DURESS. UNTIL NOW, THE HUNGER
STRIKE MADE MOVEMENT IMPOSSIBLE. NOW IT IS OVER, I WANT TO PLAY
MY PART IN SEEKING RECONCILIATION AND AN END TO VIOLENCE BY
INTRODUCING CHANGES ALONG THE LINES SET OUT BY MY PREDECESSOR
ON 30 JUNE AND 8 JULY.

3. I MUST MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR WHAT I AM NOT PREPARED TO DO. THE
PROTESTORS' VIEWS ON WORK AND ASSOCIATION ARE NOT COMPATIBLE WITH

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A CIVIL PRISON SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY THE MODERN AND HUMANE SYSTEM WHICH MAKES THE PRINCIPAL JAILS OF THE PROVINCE AS ADVANCED AS ANY IN THE WORLD. THERE IS ROOM FOR DEVELOPMENT HERE AS ELSEWHERE. BUT THERE WILL BE NO QUESTION OF A POLITICAL OR MILITARY SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION OR ANY RETURN TO SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS.

4. I HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT CHANGES NOW. THEY WILL APPLY TO ALL PRISONERS IN ALL PRISONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

5. CLOTHES (UNDERLINED)

PRISONERS WILL IN FUTURE BE ABLE TO WEAR THEIR OWN CLOTHING AT ALL TIMES AS OF RIGHT. TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS, THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS CHANGE WILL BE SET OUT IN A LEAFLET WHICH LORD GOWRIE WILL CIRCULATE TO PRISONERS TOMORROW. THESE ARRANGEMENTS COVER FOR EXAMPLE THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT CLOTHING WORN BY PRISONERS DOES NOT RESEMBLE THAT OF PRISON OFFICERS, IS NOT TANTAMOUNT TO A UNIFORM, AND IS NOT OFFENSIVE OR UNSUITABLE SO AS TO BE AN ABUSE OF THE PRIVILEGE. WE ALSO NEED TO SPECIFY THE QUANTITIES OF CLOTHING AND FINALISE LAUNDRY ARRANGEMENTS. THESE ARE PRACTICAL MATTERS AND NEED CAUSE NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THE CHANGE WILL TAKE PERHAPS TWO OR THREE WEEKS TO COMPLETE. FAMILIES MAY BRING CLOTHES TO THE PRISONS WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE DETAILS IN THE LEAFLETS. OF COURSE, THOSE WHO PREFER TO CONTINUE TO WEAR THE PRISON ISSUE CIVILIAN-STYLE CLOTHING WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO.

6. REMISSION (UNDERLINED)

AT PRESENT PRISONERS WHO HAVE LOST REMISSION AS A PENALTY FOR CERTAIN PROTEST ACTION MAY HAVE 20 PER CENT OF THAT LOST REMISSION RESTORED AFTER 3 MONTHS OF FULL CONFORMITY WITH PRISONS RULES. A NUMBER OF PRISONERS HAVE ALREADY GAINED FROM THIS. I AM NOW INTRODUCING A MORE GENEROUS SCHEME FOR RESTORATION OF LOST REMISSION. LORD GOWRIE WILL MAKE FULL DETAILS BE KNOWN SHORTLY, BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:-

- (1) THE NEW SCHEME WILL EXTEND TO ALL PRISONERS WHO

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HAVE LOST REMISSION OTHER THAN AS A RESULT OF VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST PRISON OFFICERS OR OTHER PRISONERS:

- (II) THE AMOUNT OF LOST REMISSION WHICH MAY BE RESTORED WILL BE INCREASED TO A MAXIMUM OF 50 PER CENT, IE. THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY QUALIFIED FOR THE EARLIER 20 PERCENT RESTORATION WILL GAIN A FURTHER 30 PERCENT, AND THOSE WHO NEWLY QUALIFY WILL GAIN THE FULL 50 PER CENT:
- (III) THE NEW SCHEME, LIKE THE PRESENT ONE, WILL APPLY ONLY AFTER A PERIOD OF 3 MONTHS' CONFORMITY WITH PRISON RULES. HOWEVER AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL I AM PREPARED EXCEPTIONALLY, TO ENSURE THAT THE FIRST ELIGIBLE PRISONERS CAN BE HOME BY CHRISTMAS.

THE NEW SCHEME APPLIES TO PAST BEHAVIOUR. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT PRISONERS WHO IN THE FUTURE LOSE REMISSION FOR BREACHES OF PRISON RULES WILL HAVE LOST REMISSION RESTORED.

7. ASSOCIATION (UNDERLINED)

CONFORMING PRISONERS ALREADY HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR MIXING WITH ONE ANOTHER AT MEALTIMES, WORK, EXERCISE, AND DURING THEIR PERIODS OF ASSOCIATION EACH EVENING AND AT WEEKENDS. THERE IS LITTLE IMMEDIATE SCOPE FOR EXPANSION HERE BUT I HAVE ACCEPTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME PROVISION FOR PRISONERS IN ADJACENT WINGS OF H-BLOCKS TO SHARE ASSOCIATION IN RECREATION ROOMS AND EXERCISE AREAS. BEFORE THIS CHANGE CAN BE IMPLEMENTED NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF SUCH MOVEMENT AND CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL CHANGES WILL BE REQUIRED. THESE WILL TAKE SOME WEEKS.

8. THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PRISON SYSTEM IS A CONTINUAL PROCESS: IN PARTICULAR THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF WIDENING THE SCOPE OF WORK IN THE PRISONS CAN BE EXAMINED WITHIN CERTAIN WELL-DEFINED LIMITS. THERE ARE OBVIOUS PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS ON WHAT CAN BE ARRANGED. HERE I SHOULD LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO PRISON OFFICIALS FOR SUCCESSFULLY MAINTAINING AN ENLIGHTENED SYSTEM FOR CONFORMING PRISONERS WHILE COPING WITH THE GREAT STRESS AND STRAIN OCCASIONED BY THE

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PROTEST. I AM VERY CONSCIOUS THAT MANY, INDEED MOST OF THE PRISONERS, ARE YOUNG MEN. EVEN IN THE CONTEXT OF DESERVEDLY LONG SENTENCES ON CONVICTION OF VIOLENT CRIMES MANY OF THEM WILL, IN THE NORMAL WAY, BE RELEASED BEFORE THEY ARE MIDDLE AGED. I DO THEREFORE WANT TO ENCOURAGE A SYSTEM WHERE THE VERY ADVANCED TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE, WHICH HAVE MUCH IMPRESSED ME, MAY BE FREELY USED BY ALL PRISONERS. LORD GOWRIE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS FIELD AS THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS SETTLE DOWN.

9. THE CHANGES WHICH I AM ANNOUNCING WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO WORK THROUGH. I HOPE THAT AS THEY COME INTO EFFECT, PROTESTING PRISONERS WILL RECOGNISE THE BENEFITS OF CONFORMITY WITH THE RULES, AND THE PENALTIES WHICH EXIST FOR THOSE WHO BREAK THEM. IN ORDER TO CREATE A BREATHING-SPACE AND EASE THE CHANGE-OVER IN THE PRISON SYSTEM, FOR 28 DAYS FROM YESTERDAY NO LOSS OF REMISSION WILL BE IMPOSED AS A PENALTY FOR BREACHES OF PRISON RULES ARISING OUT OF THE REFUSAL TO WEAR CLOTHES.

10. I HOPE THAT THE END OF THE HUNGER STRIKE, TOGETHER WITH THE MEASURES I HAVE DESCRIBED ABOVE, WILL HELP END THE CONFRONTATION WHICH HAS CAUSED SO MUCH TRAGEDY AND SUFFERING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PRISONS. WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT WHILE 10 YOUNG MEN HAVE DIED TRAGICALLY IN THE MAZE, MANY MORE PEOPLE HAVE DIED DURING THE PERIOD OF THE STRIKE AS INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THE VIOLENCE OUTSIDE. OUR TASK IS TO STOP THE MEN WHO ARE CAUSING THAT VIOLENCE, SO THAT WE CAN TURN ALL OUR ENERGIES TO CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. I WANT TO GET ON WITH THIS TASK AND I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT MY PRIORITY WILL BE TO TACKLE OUR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. IN THE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION WITH WHICH I HAVE PUT FORWARD MY PRISON REFORMS I LOOK FOR CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT IN THIS WIDE PURPOSE FROM ALL THE LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY.'

TEXT ENDS

CARRINGTON

LIMITED

RID

KAD

INFO DEPT

WED

MAED

NEWS D

SECURITY D

PUSD

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR HURD

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/PUS

SIR A ACLAND

CHIEF CLERK

MR ADAMS

MR BULLARD

MR FERGUSSON

LORD N G LENNOX

MR BRAITHEWAITE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND'S STATEMENT ON THE MAZE HUNGER STRIKE: SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER, 1981: 1740 HOURS

I welcome today's news from the Maze Prison. The Government declared the principles by which it is guided in its administration of Northern Ireland prisons, and having done so, held to them. But it has been greatly saddened by the loss of life and injuries suffered in the community during recent months and by the pain that yet more families have had to bear. The community owes much to those - churchmen and laymen alike - who have spoken out against those who have sought to exploit the suffering of others.

The road to and the search for peace so clearly and tragically set back by the hunger strike can now be resumed. I and my predecessors have always made clear that further developments on the prison regime will be possible once duress is removed.

Lord Gowrie and I return to Belfast in the morning. I shall be making a statement in the course of next week.

MELBOURNE }
CANBERRA } VIA Fco
Fco }
DUBLIN }
DUTY CLERK NO. 10
FILE

B)/CAB001/03

FOLLOWING FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
FROM NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE BELFAST

F L A S H

SECRET

031534Z

NUMBER 523

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FOLLOWING FOR CABINET OFFICE DUTY OFFICER TO AWAIT COLLECTION
BY NIO.

PLEASE ALSO PASS A COPY TO THE PRIME MINISTER

A COPY OF THIS STATEMENT HAS ALSO BEEN PASSED TO FCO FOR H/RID
AND HMA DUBLIN NO 118.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PSF STATEMENT ISSUED AT 15.00 HOURS.

QUOTE

WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIED STATEMENT TO
OUR OFFICE FROM THE H BLOCKS:-

''WE, THE PROTESTING POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE H-BLOCKS AND
THE MEN ON HUNGER STRIKE, HAVE RELUCTANTLY DECIDED IN THIS THE
SEVENTH MONTH OF THE HUNGER STRIKE TO END OUR FAST.

''WE HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF THE HUNGER STRIKE AS AN EFFECTIVE
PROTEST WEAPON PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN WAGED
AGAINST OUR DISTRESSED RELATIVES BY THE CATHOLIC HIERARCHY,
AIDED AND ABETTED BY THE IRISH ESTABLISHMENT (THE SDLP AND FREE
STATE POLITICAL PARTIES) WHICH TOOK NO EFFECTIVE
ACTION AGAINST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND DID EVERYTHING TO
ENCOURAGE FEELINGS OF HOPELESSNESS AMONG OUR KITH AND KIN. THE
SUCCESS OF THIS CAMPAIGN MEANT THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD
REMAIN INTRANSIGENT AS THE CRUCIAL POLITICAL PRESSURE WHICH
FLOWS FROM THE THREAT OF DEATH OR ACTUAL DEATH OF HUNGER STRIKERS
WAS SUBSIDING NOT INCREASING.

''WE REAFFIRM OUR OPPOSITION TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S
POLICY OF CRIMINALISATION AND RECOGNISE THAT THEIR INTRANSIGENCE
AND THE COURAGEOUS SACRIFICES MADE BY BOBBY SANDS, FRANCIS HUGHES,
RAYMOND MC CREECH, PATSY O'HARA, JOE MC DONNELL, MARTIN HURSON,
KEVIN LYNCH, KIERAN DOHERTY, TOM MC ELWEE, MICKY DEVINE, HAVE
OVERTURNED THE OBJECTIVE OF THAT POLICY WHICH WERE MEANT TO
FORCE US INTO CONFORMITY AND DISCREDIT OUR CAUSE - IRISH FREEDOM -
THROUGH DENIGRATING US AS 'CRIMINALS'. FAR FROM DISCREDITING
OUR CAUSE BRITISH INTRANSIGENCE, WHICH CREATED THE HUNGER STRIKE,
HAS GIVEN US INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RECOGNITION AND HAS MADE
THE CAUSE OF IRISH FREEDOM AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE, HAS
INCREASED SUPPORT AT HOME AND ABROAD FOR IRISH RESISTANCE AND HAS
SHOWN THAT THE OPPRESSED NATIONALIST PEOPLE AND THE POLITICAL
PRISONERS ARE ONE.

''WE EXTEND OUR SOLIDARITY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD HUNGER
STRIKERS AND TO ALL OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. WE ESPECIALLY THANK
THE NATIONAL H BLOCK/ARMAGH COMMITTEE AND ALL SUPPORT GROUPS
AND URGE THEM TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR TROJAN WORK IN SUPPORT OF
OUR FIVE DEMANDS. LASTLY, WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FIVE DEMANDS BY WHATEVER MEANS WE BELIEVE
NECESSARY AND EXPEDIENT. WE RULE NOTHING OUT. UNDER NO
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE WE GOING TO DEVALUE THE MEMORY OF OUR
DEAD COMRADES BY SUBMITTING OURSELVES TO A DEHUMANISING
AND DEGRADING REGIME.

UNQUOTE

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