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P.S. Taoiseach

* Copy enclosed

I received Mr. Seán Mac Bride S.C. at the Department today. He gave me an advance copy of the Amnesty International statement on allegations of ill-treatment of persons in custody in Northern Ireland. This statement will be published tomorrow.

Amnesty International are in the process of creating an International Committee to investigate the matter further. The members will be:

Dr. Hermann van Guns, who works for WHO, is Dutch and is a medical doctor;

Mr. Thomas Hammerberg - ~~Chairman~~ of the Swedish section of Amnesty and a journalist; and

Professor Upsal, Dean of the Law Faculty of ^{Oslo} University.

The first two are available; it is not yet certain that Professor Upsal will be available but if he is not he will be replaced probably by another Norwegian.

The Joint Secretary will be Mr. Kevin T. White, a legal accountant, who belongs to the Irish section of Amnesty and Sir Michael Williams who belongs to the British section of Amnesty.

The investigations by the Committee will be made from 27th November to 3rd December.

Mr. Mac Bride suggested that Mr. White and the Department could cooperate confidentially in exchanging statements of torture, brutality etc. I agreed to this and will ask Mr. Donlon to liaise with Mr. White as Mr. Donlon is presently engaged in studying this matter in detail in association with the Attorney General's Office.


9th November, 1971