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Title: Copy letter to Patrick Cosgrove, 10 Fayette Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America from Dr Garret FitzGerald, TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs explaining how the policy of the Irish Government of not making concessions in response to pressure by way of hunger strike or any threat or menace prevented it from intervening with the British Government in the case of Frank Stagg [member of Provisional Irish Republican Army on hunger strike at Wakefield Prison in the United Kingdom

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Taoiseach

No see please

11/2/76

to Betty

to ~~Vivian~~

you may need to see

also

AP.

10
2
76

10 February 1976

Mr. Patrick Cosgrove
10 Fayette Street
Cambridge
Massachusetts 02139
U.S.A.

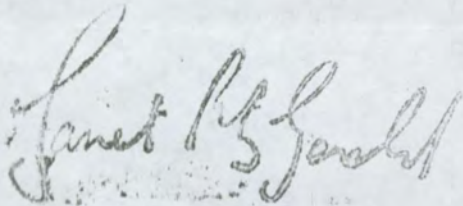
Dear Mr. Cosgrove,

The Taoiseach has passed to me for consideration your letter of 10 January, 1976. I am sure you will appreciate that the consistent policy of Irish Governments since the foundation of the State has been not to make concessions in response to pressure by way of hunger strike or any kind of threat or menace. As a result no one has died of hunger strike in this country during the past 30 years as all hunger strikes have been abandoned before the final stage owing to the firmness of successive Governments.

In these circumstances, it would be hypocritical for a representative of the Irish Government to approach the British Government to ask them to make concessions under pressure of a hunger strike which no Irish Government would be prepared to make in this country.

I should add, however, that I have transmitted to the British Government any information or facts about the Francis Stagg case which have been brought to my attention.

Yours sincerely,



cc Private Secretary, An Taoiseach