

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2011/127/1053
Creation Date(s):	24 April 1981
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Handed to me by British Ambassador at 9.55 A.M.

on 24/4/87

24/4

to Taoiseach:

- (i) HMG fully shares ~~his~~ concern that the hunger strike and the prison protests should be brought to an end without loss of life within or without the prison.
- (ii) Our position remains as set out in previous statements and we are glad to know that the Taoiseach recognised that there can be no question of our making any concession on the substance of the prison regime in Northern Ireland. No.
- (iii) We would of course welcome a statement from the Taoiseach urging Mr Sands and the other hunger strikers and the protesters generally to give up their protests. We would not oppose an intervention by the European Commission for Human Rights provided that the Commission's involvement is brought about in the only way in which it can be brought about with the willing participation of HMG, namely by accepting and responding to a complaint made from one of the hunger strikers.
- (iv) In the event of such a complaint and a subsequent request by the Commission for one or more Commissioners to visit the Maze Prison, HMG would agree to that as the best way of proceeding in these exceptional circumstances, noting incidentally that Commissioners had visited a Northern Ireland prison some years ago in connection with an earlier complaint.
- (v) It would have to be made clear to the Commission and publicly that the Commissioners in visiting the Maze would in no way be put in a position of mediating or arbitrating but would be reporting back to their colleagues so that the Commission would hear the complaint in the normal way.