

COPY OF A LETTER FOUND IN A PRISONER'S CELL 7 DECEMBER 1978

Tuesday Night

'H' Block 6

Well Mate

I got your letter today, I ripped it up shortly after I read it, so I forget what it was you wanted to know, smart a fuck an't I. See that teeth issue we discuss well I will get all the OC myself I know in due time, I'm writing them all communications tomorrow anyway it will come into effect from Friday morning I want to write and tell them all what do do and not to do its pretty evedent that the wings seem to be working different on small points I'll also be writing to the IO.¹ I am starting from scratch again on the clearances.² Paddy ripped the fuckin arse out of it, I'm telling the IO to clear as many as possible, if a bloke is cleared it gives him a bit more incentive to go on the blanket it puts him on a better frame of mind. What do you think? it's a bluff if you want to call it that, have a yarn with the IO and let me know what you think. Clearances on remand arnt really worth a fuck as everyone will be gone through with a fine comb in the sentenced block when we get the Status.³ I was thinking of clearing as many as possible within reason of course and informing the Dark and big AL. Let me know what you think mate will you get the two OCs of A or B⁴ to get the men to do a lot of statements, not just the situation at hand, if you know what I mean situation of remand prisoners - blanket men⁵ - drawings - political status treatment of protesters - statements on all the various happenings rather than one statement about everything this wing and C wing are doing well so try and buck them up and make sure everything goes through the PRO.⁶ (Name of prisoner) says he needs as much statements and sketches of cells - screws⁷ beating prisoners etc about this years 24 hr hunger strike I can't say when it yet till I find out when the blanket

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1. Intelligence or Information Officer
 2. Vetting of prisoners to ensure they are members of Provisional IRA.
 3. Political status
 4. A and B Wings of the H-Block
 5. Protesting prisoners
 6. Public Relations Officer
 7. Slang for prison officer

men are having theirs, and if they are not having one we will be having one anyway. Regarding stepping up protest I have no immediate plans but I want to make sure that when we do we get MAX publicity on everything, oh yes my policy on washes, a man will have to have a very serious illness for me to give him permission to wash, see this nonsense about sweat rashes, pimples, hair falling out and boils its not on. To my knowledge there are two people washing (name of prisoner) in 'C' Wing who has always washed, and I gave 'B' Wing OC the go ahead for a bloke in 'B' Wing as he has developed a very bad case Scrycis the OC said it was bad do you know what it is from what I have heard it is maddening, anyway there isnt anyone else to my knowledge, if there is any in those wings let me know, have you any IRSP⁸ over there? what are they doing? there usual policy was to go on the protest but still wash. After you find out the new OC in 'B' Wing is, have a look at Mass on Sunday and see if there is a more suitable choice, I don't think we have any chance of getting new statement men always as OCs we will just have to be satisfied with the best of a bad lot, doesnt sound nice but the truth rarely does try and keep in daily contact mate, try and have me an answer tomorrow even on these I have a few more things but I will write again to morrow night

(Name of prisoner) says everything is going great out there - mind those congressmen⁹ well they issued a statement over there saying they fully supported the blanket, it shouldn't be long now if we haven't got it by March then we will have it shortly after that cause thats when header Nugent¹⁰ gets out.

When he gets in front of the camera and starts talking about his 2½ yrs on the protest.

I am signing off so answer this tomorrow Wed

(The above text omits one short paragraph dealing with personal matters)

8. Irish Republican Socialist Party; an organisation dedicated to a United Ireland under a socialist government.
9. Two members of the United States Congress who visited Northern Ireland in August 1978.
10. Applicant Nugent, who, when he completes his sentence in March, will be the first protesting prisoner to be released from HMP Maze.