

FO/NIO 002/05

OVL NIO (BELFAST) DESKBY 05:0800Z

GRPS 200

U N C L A S S I F I E D

FM DUBLIN 041430Z OCT 81

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY FCO 05:0800Z

TELEGRAM NUMBER 344 OF 04 OCTOBER 1981

AND TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY NIO(BELFAST) 05:0800Z

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO WASHINGTON AND BIS NEW YORK

PRIVATE OFFICE

FUS

MR BLELFUCH

MR WYATT

MR GILLILAND

MR BUXTON

MR DAVENPORT

MR BLATHERNICK

LIAISONx2

RUC

MR PALMER

MR JACKSON

MR ...

*Miss Robb id.  
to see  
Mr. Nafell*

5 OCT 1981  
10  
*Key*

END OF HUNGER STRIKE: REACTIONS FROM POLITICIANS IN THE IRISH REPUBLIC.

1. THE ENDING OF THE HUNGER STRIKE IN THE MAZE PRISON ON 3 OCTOBER HAS BEEN GREETED BY POLITICIANS IN THE REPUBLIC WITH RELIEF.
2. THE TAOISEACH GAVE AN OFF THE CUFF INTERVIEW TO REPORTERS SOON AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE END OF THE HUNGER STRIKE WAS MADE. ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS, DR FITZGERALD SAID THAT HE WAS "VERY PLEASED" THAT THE STRIKE HAD ENDED, AND THAT HE ADMIRERD THE COURAGE OF THE RELATIONS OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS WHO HAD HELPED BRING IT ABOUT. HE HOPED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD INTRODUCE CHANGES IN THE PRISON REGIME ALONG THE LINES RECOMMENDED BY THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE THAT WOULD NOT GIVE ANY EXCUSE FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE HUNGER STRIKE; IN HIS VIEW THE VISIT TO THE MAZE PRISON BY MR PRIOR "WAS A SIGNAL OF THE INTENTION TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES." HE THOUGHT THAT THE END OF THE HUNGER STRIKE WOULD LEAD TO BETTER RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN AND ADMITTED THAT HE WAS "UNHAPPY" WITH THE INFLEXIBILITY OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON THE HUNGER STRIKE AS HE THOUGHT WERE THE IRISH PEOPLE. THE NEWS ALSO MEANT THAT HIS MEETING WITH MRS THATCHER WOULD NOT BE "OVERSHADOWED" BY THE CONTINUING HUNGER STRIKE.
3. THE TANAISTE, MR O'LEARY WELCOMED THE ENDING OF THE HUNGER STRIKE, BUT SAID: "IF THIS COULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CESSATION OF VIOLENCE BY THE PARAMILITARY ORGANISATIONS, A VAST STEP FORWARD COULD BE MADE IN REACHING A GENERAL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND."
4. THE FIANNA FAIL LEADER, MR HAUGHEY IS REPORTED AS HAVING SAID: "THIS IS INDEED GREAT NEWS. THERE WILL BE RELIEF THROUGHOUT THIS ISLAND THAT THIS TRAGIC SITUATION HAS NOW COME TO AN END. IT IS TRAGIC THAT SO MANY DEATHS OCCURRED BUT IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT TODAY'S DEVELOPMENTS WILL USHER IN A NEW ERA OF PEACE."
5. SEE M.I.F.T. FOR MEDIA REACTIONS.

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TATHAM

NNNN

SENT 0811Z/05 RM



*Mr MacLay* *Mr Temple* *Miss Bell*  
*Mr. Pabell*  
*SCJ* *Rum*  
*S.10.81*

PRIVATE OFFICE  
PUS  
MR BLELLOCH  
MR WYATT  
MR GILLILAND  
MR BUXTON  
MR DAVENPORT  
MR BLATHERWICK  
LIAISONx2  
RUC

FO/NIO 001/05

AO NIO (BELFAST) DESKBY 05:0800Z

GRPS 300

UNCLASSIFIED

FM DUBLIN 04:1600Z OCT 81

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY FCO 05:0800Z

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-5 OCT 1981  
REC'D ON *mi Palmer*  
**MR JACKSON**

M.I.P.T.: END OF HUNGER STRIKE: IRISH MEDIA REACTIONS.

1. THE ENDING OF THE HUNGER STRIKE IS THE MAIN ITEM OF NEWS IN THE REPUBLIC'S SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS, TODAY, 4 OCTOBER. THE SUNDAY PRESS, SUNDAY INDEPENDENT AND SUNDAY TRIBUNE ALL CARRY FRONT PAGE ARTICLES ABOUT THE REACTIONS OF POLITICIANS AND CLERICS IN IRELAND AND BRITAIN, THE WAY IN WHICH THE HUNGER STRIKE ENDED, AND THE BACKGROUND TO THE H-BLOCK CAMPAIGN IN GENERAL. ONLY THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE CARRIES EDITORIAL COMMENT, HOWEVER.

2. UNDER THE HEADING "BRITISH MUST TAKE ACTION," THE SUNDAY PRESS GIVES PROMINENCE TO THE TAOISEACH'S REACTIONS TO THE NEWS (SEE MIPT). THE REPORT QUOTES CARDINAL O'FLAICH AS CALLING FOR "GENEROSITY AND COMPASSION" TO BE SHOWN BY THE PRISON AUTHORITIES, AND FOR A REBUILDING OF BROKEN BRIDGES BETWEEN DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE NORTHERN COMMUNITY. MR JEROME CONNOLLY OF THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IS REPORTED AS WELCOMING THE NEWS AND SAYING THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE NIO TO ACT QUICKLY "IN A SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY" TO IMPLEMENT PROMISED PRISON REFORMS. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE, MRS BERNADETTE MCALISKEY IS QUOTED AS SAYING AFTER THE MEETING OF THE H-BLOCK COMMITTEE IN DUBLIN ON 3 OCTOBER AT WHICH THE END OF THE HUNGER STRIKE WAS ANNOUNCED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN AS TO WHETHER AN H-BLOCK CANDIDATE WOULD CONTEST THE CAVAN/MONAGHAN BY-ELECTION. DAVID O'CONNELL IS QUOTED AT THE SAME MEETING AS INSISTING THAT PADDY AGNEW TD WOULD NOT RESIGN HIS SEAT IN LOUTH.

3. THE SUNDAY INDEPENDENT DESCRIBES THE TAOISEACH AS BEING AT THE HEAD "OF AN INTENSE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN TO PERSUADE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE IMMEDIATE REFORMS IN NORTHERN JAILS FOLLOWING THE DRAMATIC ENDING OF THE MAZE HUNGER STRIKE". A SEPARATE ARTICLE ENTITLED "HOW IT ENDED" CLAIMS THAT ONE OF THE FACTORS WHICH PERSUADED THE RELATIVES TO FAVOUR FORCING AN END TO THE HUNGER STRIKE WAS A PROMISE FROM LORD GOWRIE THAT FULL 50% REMISSION WOULD BE RESTORED, WHICH WOULD MEAN THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF 150 MEN IN THE MAZE AND 20 WOMEN IN ARMAGH PRISONS. AN ARTICLE ON PAGE 3 BY JOHN DEVINE DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WHEREAS THE 10 HUNGER STRIKERS WHO DIED DID SO OF THEIR OWN CHOICE "THERE ARE THOSE NOW DEAD WHO HAD NO WISH TO DIE FOR CAUSE OR COUNTRY...." ON THE SAME PAGE MRS MCALISKEY IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THE FIGHT FOR THE "POLITICAL PRISONERS" WOULD GO ON, AND THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE "UNWISE" NOT TO GRANT THE FIVE DEMANDS.

4. FRONT PAGE ARTICLES IN THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE QUOTE FR FAUL AS SAYING THAT THE QUESTION OF REMISSION WAS NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT

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4. FRONT PAGE ARTICLES IN THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE QUOTE FR FAUL AS SAYING THAT THE QUESTION OF REMISSION WAS NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AND MR PRIOR AS INDICATING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING PRISON REFORMS. THE SUNDAY WORLD CHARACTERISTICALLY RELEGATES THE NEWS OF THE ENDING OF THE HUNGER STRIKE TO PAGE 3, AND RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROVISIONAL IRA WILL NOW LAUNCH AN ALL-OUT BOMBING CAMPAIGN TO AVENGE THE DEATHS OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS.

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CCN: PARA 3. LINE 11 PLEASE A MEND TO READ

' 'TO THE FACT THAT WHEREAS THE 10 HUNGER STRIKERS WHO DIED DID SO OF'

TATHAM

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SENT 0806Z/05 RM