

- cc PS/SOS (B & L)
- PS/Lord Gowrie (B & L)
- PS/PUS (B & L)
- Mr Blelloch
- Mr Marshall
- Mr Wyatt
- Mr Harrington
- Mr Blatherwick

Mr. DeGell
Mr. MIA
Mr. H. G. G.
Mr. Mackay
SCT 6.10.81
Mr. Jackson
No action necessary
Bl G W

Mr Palmer:

HUNGER STRIKE : CARDINAL O'FIAICH

Cardinal O'Fiaich telephoned me this morning to follow up the discussion he and Father Faul had with the Secretary of State on 30 September. He said that he was approaching me after a further word with Father Faul.

During the course of the discussion with the Secretary of State Father Faul had expressed the view that no more hunger strikers were likely to die because their families would intervene, but he reminded the Secretary of State of the dangers of sudden collapse. The Cardinal wished to draw my attention to the deteriorating condition of Sheehan. He apparently had two reasons for doing so. First, it added to the urgency, in the Cardinal's view, of preparing the proposals for the development of the prison regime, about which there had been talk at the meeting. Second, Father Faul apparently thought that Sheehan might be moving to the point when he would collapse suddenly without there being an opportunity for the family to intervene, and he was told that Father Faul did not wish the Secretary of State to think his death, if it happened in this way, called into question Father Faul's opinion that there would be no more deaths. I gather that Father Faul remains of the view that the Sheehan family will intervene if they can. The Cardinal made no reference at all to yesterday's meetings between Sheehan and his mother or between Sheehan and McFarland.

S.W. Boys Smith

S BOYS SMITH
 Private Secretary
 2 October 1981