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PRISONS

MAZE CELLULAR - PIRA ORGANISATION IN BLOCKS

File
Mr. [unclear] 3942
NIO, BANGALORE
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1. An important and unusual find has been made at Maze Cellular. It reveals that the PIRA command structure is dissatisfied with the existing block organisation into "departments" of culture, PR, and education; this is to be replaced by a new "political and cultural affairs committee" in each block. The work in these fields is evidently quite unsatisfactory at present and is put down to "inadequate co-ordination and organisation".
2. The note, which is well written and composed was found in H1 by an observant officer who was searching a pair of trousers sent for laundry by Oliver Alphonsus CORR. Corr, a high risk PIRA inmate had recently been transferred from H2 but was already believed to be at least the wing if not block OC in H1. He is not thought to be the author, who remains unknown. The note could either have been in transit to a staging post in the laundry, or might simply have been forgotten about.
3. The composition of the new committee will not be fixed—"the block OC will appoint men to work on it in accordance with the requirements of the movement in the block..... The sole criterion for serving is a willingness to work The Committee itself should be co-ordinated by the block OC or the block adjutant. Individual members of the Committee will have much responsibility but no authority This restriction on the right to express authority is a safeguard against overzealousness by committee members which, if not checked could lead to mismanagement of affairs and the subsequent failure of the Committee. Directives from the various depts at battalion level will be put to the Committee.....".
4. As regards the work of the committees we are assured that "the first priority ... will be to ensure that the present education policy of the camp education dept is implemented in a proper manner". The use of "debates, pageants, lectures and general discussions should not be ruled out. Greater efforts

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should be made to ensure that the wing libraries are stocked with suitable reading material, including that recommended by the camp education dept. In the field of culture a greater emphasis will be placed on creativity... [Irish classes] in the cells are not enough... In the field of PRO we still maintain a policy of highlighting issues both inside and outside the prison. But we must also give serious consideration to creating a new dimension. That should take the form of periodic submissions being made to the movement on the outside for publication in the AP/RN. Their substance should be of a theoretical and analytical nature. In part it should be a reflection of the progress of our education policy." As a further proposal "there should be a wing bulletin board displayed in the canteens. These should be used to display important or interesting articles cut from newspapers. Letters from our people in the camp should always be displayed upon these boards." A number of current projects were also being planned which was intended to complete by the end of May -

1. A theoretical comment as to the necessity of organisation and education for the AP/RN.
2. A document on strategy, theory and practice for the movement on the outside.
3. The formation of study groups to analyse the contents of the book, "the Irish Republican Congress" by George Gilmore
4. A pageant built around the intended meeting between John Hume and the Army Council. 4

Finally the need for continuity in activity is stressed as a consequence of the regular moves which we now make of prisoners - "it is important that we have a cohesive functioning body in operation which will continue to accommodate the input of new individuals and members when the former people eventually move out".

5. This find gives a useful insight into PIRA's current concerns of a non-security nature at Maze Cellular. The drive for more

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co-ordinated political/cultural/educational activity could be seen as another prison attempt to bolster the Adams/Sinn Fein policy. By the same token, the fact that the system has evidently failed up to now could be put down to a form of resistance by the militant faction as well of course as to a certain idleness among the volunteers - this note, as with others before it, does confirm that PIRA has a motivation problem with the rank and file. It is also possible to see this initiative in part at least as a response to the failure of the promised propaganda campaign to get off the ground. These Committees too may be another grandiose scheme, a little too far removed from some volunteers' interests and capabilities to be sure of success. Likewise the fact that the Committees are to be deliberately powerless - presumably to ensure that the existing command structure is not threatened - can hardly be expected to make them flourish. Parallel difficulties are not unknown in Government! In fact one of the most interesting features of this note is the remarkable parallelism between PIRA's review capacities and our own. The note displays self-assurance and almost completely ignores the existence of the prison authorities and their rules. It well shows the extent to which there is a well structured parallel and subversive organisation capable of making intelligent policy and strategic decisions.

6. This note is thought to be of relatively recent date. Despite the mention of the end of May we have no evidence that these plans have actually been put into effect as yet; we will be watching for developments. It is unlikely that our discovery of this note should affect PIRA's intentions to make these changes to their organisation, if they still wish to do so, as there is not a great deal in practice that we can do about it.

M Templeton

A K TEMPLETON
Prison Information Unit

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cc PS/SofS (B&L)	*Mr Lyon
PS/Mr Scott (B&L)	*Mr Hilditch
PS/PUS (B&L)	*Mr S McNeill
PS/Mr Bloomfield	*Mr D Ritchie
*Mr Stephens	*Mr T Murtagh
*Mr Palmer	*Mr A Brown
Mr Gilliland	*Mr N Cornick
Mr Merifield	*Mr G Hannigan
Mr Buxton	Mr J Hamilton
*Mr Ferneyhough	Mr Gilmore
*Mr Kendrick	(original)
*Mr Jackson	*Supt McClure
Mr D McNeill	*Maj Kendell
	Mr Bickham

* with transcript