

E.R.

51479
22 JUL 1986

Mr Brown O.R.

cc. Mr Scott (B&L)
Mr Palmer
Mr Kendrick
Mr D McNeill

Perhaps we cd
speak about this early
next week.

MR S C JACKSON

MR SCOTT'S MEETING WITH MR PADRAIG O'MALLEY

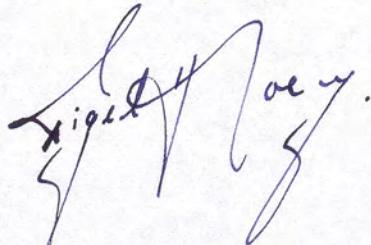
PCT
22.7.86

During the course of Mr Scott's brief meeting with Padraig O'Malley earlier today, Mr O'Malley asked if it would be possible for him to interview a number of people in connection with the book he is writing on Northern Ireland, and which will include a piece on the prolonged Hunger Strike of March/October 1981.

Mr O'Malley would like an opportunity to interview some of the Prison Officers who worked in the Maze during this period in order to gain a better understanding of the problems and tensions as the hunger strike evolved. He would also like to interview the Prison Governor and the departmental Superintending Under-Secretary of the day.

Mr O'Malley has given an undertaking (see attached) that should we agree to provide any material, written or oral, for use in the book then we would have the right to review all such material before publication.

I should be grateful if you would consider Mr O'Malley's request and let me have your comments in due course.



N S C HOEY
APS/Mr Scott

21 July 1986

HC

Houghton Mifflin Company



Two Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 725-5948 Cable HOUGHTON

Robie Macauley
Executive Editor
Trade Division

To Whom it May Concern:

Mr. Padraig O'Malley is under contract with us to write a book on Northern Ireland. If you agree to provide any material, written or oral, to Mr. O'Malley for use in the book, we agree that you will have the right to review all such material before publication and that you may deny publication to any part of the material if you so wish. In such case, we should appreciate a memorandum for you noting what parts of your material you do not wish to be published.

Cordially,

Robie Macauley

J, 539
28 JUL 1986

Reference

Mr Thomas ? Did I send [] to you.

Mr Jackson ✓

JLJ

28.7.86

MR SCOTT'S MEETING WITH MR PADRAIG O'MALLEY

1. I have seen a copy of [Nigel Hoey's minute of 21 July.]
2. I would oppose offering any assistance in any form to Mr O'Malley. We have already seen one hunger strike saga which in my view should not be allowed into our prisons. (i.e. the Collins book)
3. His desire to "gain a better understanding of the problems and tensions as the hunger strike evolved" is laudable and the right to review any material which we have supplied is the least we could expect. What we could not control, apart from refusing the use of the material, is the general tenor of the book and the context in which such material would be used. We would be on a loser either way. If we permitted staff, on a voluntary basis, to offer assistance and allowed material to be used we would lend a degree of official credence to the publication which could make it difficult to ban it if the finished article was deemed to be unacceptable. If, having allowed staff to co-operate, we refused the use of the material then this would give some notoriety to the book which no doubt would be much welcomed by Mr O'Malley and his publishers.

R J KENDRICK
Director of Prison Operations

25 July 1986

Mr Palmer o.r.

30 JUL 1986
375

cc Mr Palmer
Mr D McNeill

Mr O'Malley's book may well
turn out to be a serious, not

wholly unbalanced study of the 1980/81
hunger strikes: these were, in any view, significant events
of legitimate public interest. At the same time I see a number
of difficulties about facilitating interviews with prison staff,
and I think Mr Hilditch should not be asked - now
that he has retired - if he would be willing to talk with
Mr O'Malley. I think the reference to the Superintending
Under-Secretary has Tom Bellish in mind (we mentioned
him when we saw Mr O'M): I see no objection to
his being asked if he would be willing to participate in
discussions. Perhaps we could discuss. JLJ 30.7.86

GW