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Northern Ireland Office  
DUNDONALD HOUSE

RECEIVED AT  
1334  
18 JUN 1986

PS/MR SCOTT (B) & (L) MUFAX

**HUNGER STRIKE BY LOYALIST PRISONERS  
MAGILLIGAN PRISON**

Two prisoners at Magilligan commenced refusing food on Monday 16 June. They are taking water. The prisoners are:-

(i)



(ii)



2. The prisoners have addressed separate notes to the Governor, copies attached, listing eight "demands". At present they are both refusing to talk with the Governor, or to the medical officer or other hospital staff. They are not at present being weighed: if the prisoners persist in their attitude to medical staff the Governor may decide, in consultation with the medical officer Dr [REDACTED], to transfer them at an early date to a different location within the prison.

3. Some of the eight demands, which have not been mentioned so far in the press reports of the start of the hunger strike, we find puzzling; and there are some surprising omissions - for example the Magilligan practice of refusing to allow (because of the discovery of a detonator hidden in an orange contained in a parcel) "proxy" parcels. Some comments on the eight points are in paragraph 5 below.

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Visits to the prison by Mr Cecil Walker MP and a DUP delegation

4. You are aware that arrangements have been made for Mr Walker to see [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (separately) today. The DUP delegation, which Mr Robinson may or may not lead, is going to the prison tomorrow, the visit having previously been postponed because of a series of assaults on staff believed to have been related to the impending DUP visit. We shall receive a report from the prison on Mr Walker's visit; Mr Kendrick and I will be accompanying the DUP party tomorrow.

The eight "demands"

5. (i) Visits by political parties This is no doubt related to the refusal of the earlier DUP visit. The fact that it has now been rearranged demonstrates that constitutional parties are given facilities to visit.

(ii) End of controlled movement We believe that this is perhaps at the heart of the prisoners' dissatisfaction with the Magilligan regime. However the Governor's insistence on controlled movement, and the full implementation of the instructions by staff (more so, it seems than happens at Maze) has our full support.

(iii) Association times There can be problems at the prison in guaranteeing the full three hours' evening association because of staff availability and the difficulty of getting everyone out quickly with controlled movement. We are looking further at this aspect.

(iv) Exercise periods The Governor sees difficulties - and we recognise the problems - about allowing prisoners the use of the dining halls for association when the weather is unsuitable for exercise outside. This is permitted at Maze. We are looking at the matter further in consultation with the Governor, who is strongly of the view that association should not be regarded as an alternative to

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exercise and sees staffing and other problems about making any change in the present arrangements. We can explain this more fully later.

(v) Clean sheets We think one clean sheet a week is entirely reasonable, although Maze and Belfast find it possible to provide two.

(vi) Seating arrangements at visits The Minister is aware of the background to this. Visitors will be allowed to sit beside prisoners when open visits are introduced in the Autumn (although these arrangements may attract objection on the ground that they afford less privacy).

(vii) Tuck shop purchases We are puzzled by this: it may relate to earlier practices at Maze which we are assured have now been tightened up.

(viii) Adjudications This is also an odd point for the prisoners to have included. It is for the Board of Visitors to decide whether to allow legal representation at adjudications before them: the courts have held that legal representation should not be available at Governors' adjudications.

PR

6. We think it desirable to issue a short press statement today, ie rather to make our first statement after the DUP visit or in response to whatever they may say. A draft is attached. We think this should categorically refute the allegations of improper behaviour by Magilligan staff and comment appropriately on the attacks which have been made on staff homes. This should also help in reassuring the Board of Visitors, who have asked to see the Minister to express their concern about what they see as a lack of support by the NIO for the difficulties of the Magilligan staff.

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The future

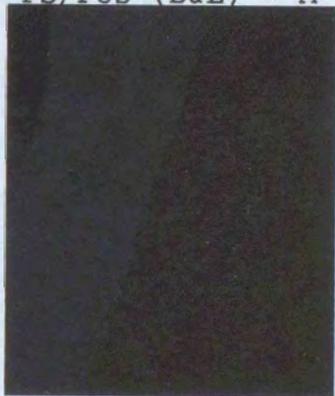
7. It is perhaps just possible that the prisoners will find something in, or arising from, the DUP visit to justify calling off their action. If they do not we shall have a meeting at the beginning of next week with Mr Semple and the Governor designate, [REDACTED], to discuss strategy/tactics. We will report further as matters develop.



S C JACKSON

18 June 1986

CC PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - M  
PS/PUS (B&L) - M



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DRAFT STATEMENT BY MR SCOTT

As has been reported in the newspapers, two prisoners at Magilligan have been refusing food since Monday of this week. They are taking water.

I very much regret that prisoners should again be resorting to this action in order to put pressure on the authorities. I would have hoped that previous experiences had demonstrated the futility of this form of protest.

I have seen a list of a number of points which the prisoners say are the reasons for their hunger strike. I am puzzled by some of these, for example the mention of visits by representatives of political parties: a DUP delegation is to visit Magilligan tomorrow. Any complaints by prisoners about prison conditions or routines are carefully considered, and I am entirely satisfied that nothing in the Magilligan regime can possibly justify resort to hunger striking.

I entirely refute the allegations which have been made against the Governor and other staff at Magilligan; the suggestion of a deliberate campaign against prisoners is absurd. The attacks which have been made on the homes of prison officers, who do a difficult job in support of the community, are despicable and without a shred of justification.

I hope that the prisoners will decide quickly to end their

pointless refusal of food, and that those in a position to influence them will encourage them to do so.

/JR

2.

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To: N.I.O. via No. 1 Governor

I, [REDACTED] Magilligan, from today, 16 June 1986, will be refusing all food and consuming water only until my eight demands for better conditions here in Magilligan are met.

- (1) Political parties must be permitted access to prison to see conditions for themselves.
- (2) As Magilligan is a medium security prison, the end of controlled movement.
- (3) Proper times set by NIO for association to commence forthwith.  
Night time from 5.30pm - 8.30pm; week-end from 2pm - 4.30pm.
- (4) The right to a full hour's exercise, if inclement weather choice of canteen.
- (5) Two clean sheets per week, plus the right to wash personal clothing.
- (6) To be permitted to sit beside wife, girlfriend, daughter, on visits.
- (7) To be permitted to buy birthday, Christmas cards, etc, out of personal money and not out of prison earnings.
- (8) The right to have proper counsel when being adjudicated by Governor or BOV.

I am not seeking any special treatment, only to be brought into line with Belfast and Maze prisoners and I am prepared to stay on this fast until these conditions are met.

[REDACTED]

To the Governor

Over a period of three or more years conditions for prisoners in Magilligan have taken a retrospective step, you have went overboard in your pettiness and even when this prison was quiet and running smooth you "put the boot in", and, now we've taken enough. The emergence of this hunger strike is a result of Loyalist prisoners saying to you "enough is enough". It is against my personal feelings to list our following areas of contentions, but, just as an act of courtesy, I am putting them in writing to you. I would advise you not to "loose" or "mislay" these eight points, for I, not my comrades, intend to furnish you with another copy. I promise you this, the days of you and the NIO "passing the buck" between each other are over!

Areas of contention:

- (1) A visit to the jail by all defacto political parties.
- (2) Control movement.
- (3) Association.
- (4) Exercise.
- (5) Laundry and personal laundry.
- (6) Visits.
- (7) Prison Shop and Wages.
- (8) Internal disciplinary changes.

We wish to state that in any negotiations, we wish to have our fellow prisoner [REDACTED] present as a safeguard, if this is not acceptable you ... so be it.

[REDACTED]

1157 17 JUN 1986

E. R.

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CC: PS/Mr Scott (B&L)

Mr Jackson

MAGILLIGAN PRISON - HUNGER STRIKERS EIGHT DEMANDS

During the course of yesterday's meeting you agreed to provide the Minister with a brief background note, and line to take, that he could place before the Secretary of State on the Magilligan hunger strikers and their eight demands. Could this be with Private Office by close of play today.

APS/Mr Scott

17 June 1986

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SP

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