

GROUPS 180
UNCLASSIFIED
FROM DUBLIN 061450Z OCTOBER 1981
TO PRIORITY F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 347 OF 06 OCTOBER.
AND TO ROUTINE N I O BELFAST.

pm .

MR PRIOR'S STATEMENT.

MR HAUGHEY HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MAZE PRISON.

" THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT COULD BE SAID TODAY ABOUT THE TRAGIC EVENTS, THE DEATHS, THE SUFFERING AND THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES OF THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS. I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE WISEST THING NOW IS FOR US ALL TO WELCOME THIS MOVE BY MR PRIOR WITHOUT RESERVATION AND TO FERVENTLY HOPE THAT IT WILL USHER IN A NEW ERA IN THE MAZE PRISON.

ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1981 FOLLOWING MY INTERVIEW WITH OWEN CARRON, M.P., I SUGGESTED THAT A SETTLEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE DEMANDS PUT FORWARD BY THE PRISONERS SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE PRISONERS AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

I THEREFORE WELCOME THESE NEW MEASURES AND IN PARTICULAR THE WORDS IN MR. PRIOR'S STATEMENT THAT "THE DEVELOPEMENT OF A PRISON SYSTEM IS A CONTINUAL PROCESS".

I WOULD URGE THAT THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED TODAY SHOULD BE FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENTED AND THE PRINCIPLE EXPRESSED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT BE FOLLOWED THROUGH IN AN ENLIGHTENED, HUMANE AND SENSITIVE MANNER SO THAT WE WILL NEVER AGAIN SEE A REPETITION OF THE GREAT HUMAN TRAGEDY THAT H-BLOCKS HAS ~~KOME~~ TO REPRESENT."

FIGG

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