

MR. WHITMORE

I have taken down over the telephone the following transcript of a conversation between the McCreesh family and Raymond McCreesh in the Maze last weekend. I have not inquired how the transcript was come by. It is as follows:

Father McCreesh: Where are you?

Raymond McCreesh: I am in hospital in Scotland.

Father McCreesh: You are not in hospital in Scotland. You are in Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

LATER

Father McCreesh: Your brother and I were proud to carry the coffins of Bobby Sands and Frank Hughes. They are in heaven now waiting for you.

LATER

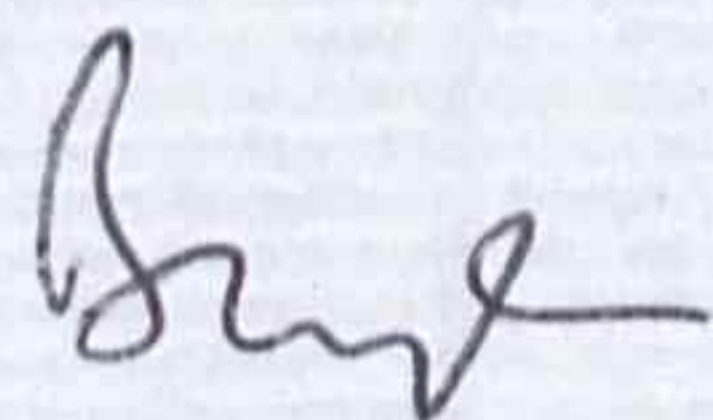
Two doctors meet the McCreesh family and say:

Do you wish us to try to resuscitate Raymond and try to save his life?

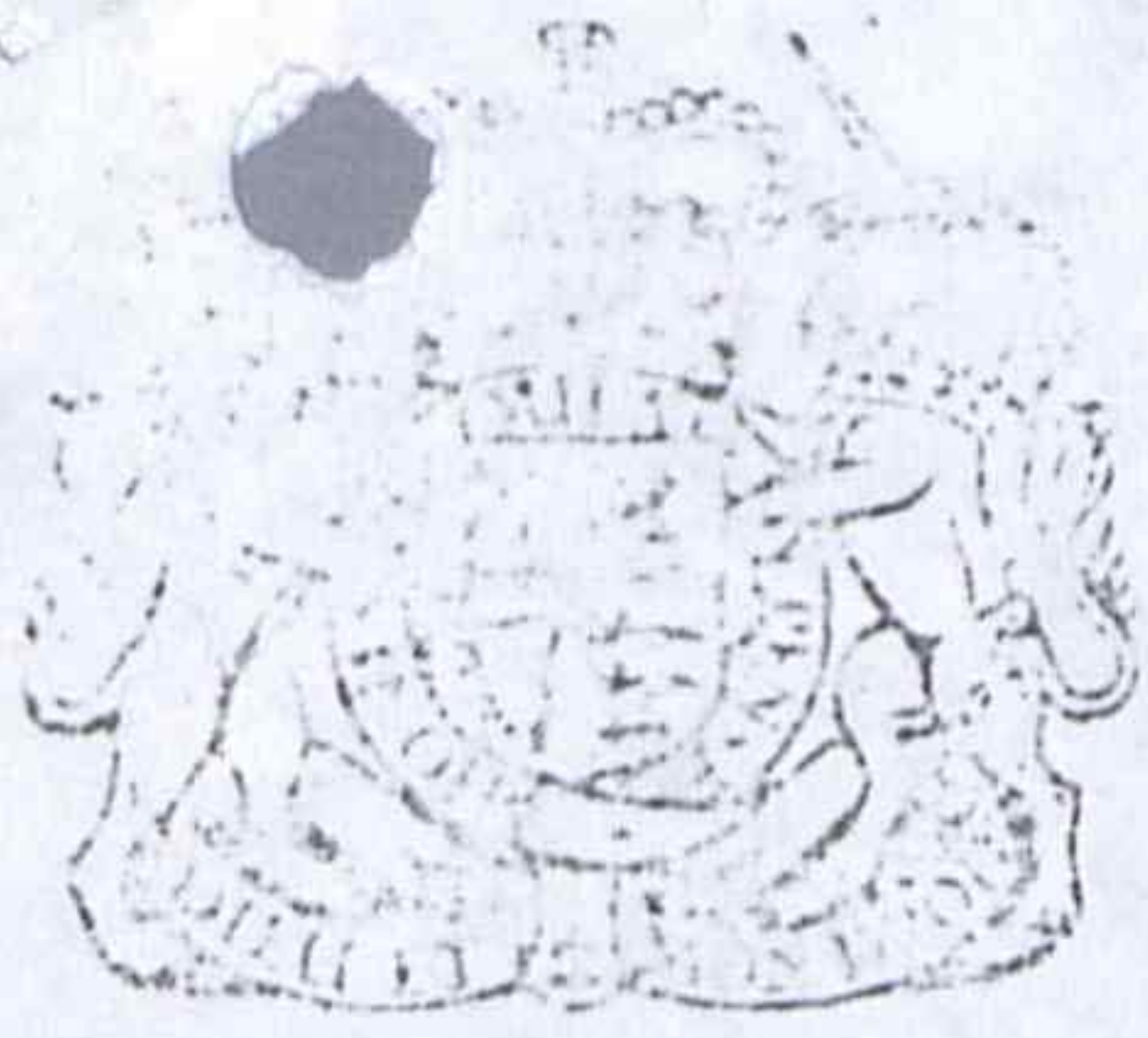
Father McCreesh: No. We know Raymond's wishes and we respect them. Nothing is to be done.

We cannot, of course, refer to this conversation in public; nor can we admit to its existence in private.

You may have seen the attached statement put out by the Northern Ireland Office today dealing with the McCreesh family's rejection of the facts of the case.



B. INGHAM
19 May, 1981



Northern Ireland Office

Press Notice

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L9/81

19 May 1981

CASE OF RAYMOND McCREESH

Certain allegations have been made about the conduct of medical and nursing staff at the Maze Prison on Saturday May 16 in relation to Raymond McCreesh, a convicted prisoner who was then on the 56th day of his hunger strike. The facts are as follows:

McCreesh had made clear on several occasions since the start of his hunger strike his decision not to take nourishment or to accept medical treatment as his condition deteriorated. The consequences of this decision were explained to him and he was then told by the medical staff that his decision would be respected and that unless he changes his mind there would be no medical intervention.

On Saturday May 16 he indicated his willingness to accept nourishment and medical treatment. He was, however, in a confused state of mind and the doctors in attendance did not regard his statements as sufficient to authorise medical intervention in view of his mental state and his previously clearly expressed contrary views.

The doctors accordingly asked to see McCreesh's nearest family relatives, told them that McCreesh had indicated his willingness to accept nourishment and medical treatment but because of his confused mental state they now sought guidance from them.

After the family members had visited McCreesh, the family acting through Father McCreesh, a brother of Raymond McCreesh, gave clear and unequivocal advice to the doctors that there was to be no medical intervention. The wish of the family was accordingly respected.