

cc ERW

MOOBA

+ Maze File

Prime Minister

Mr Newington - RID

I attach the form of words the hull boat
 is us. I think you will want to take this
 up with Mr Haughey: he has not done very well.

Maze Prison

Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the Leader of the Fianna Fail Party, called on Lord Carrington this morning. The purpose of the call was to discuss work which Dr Fitzgerald is doing for the Trilateral Commission on the Middle East: a call arranged for last month had had to be postponed. At the end of their discussion Dr Fitzgerald said that he had on the previous day had a long discussion with the Taoiseach, in which Mr Cluskey, the leader of the Irish Labour Party, had also taken part in an attempt to find a common response to the British Government's announcement on the Maze Prison. This was the first time that the Taoiseach had held discussions with the other parties on anything to do with Northern Ireland. In the event it had not been possible to find an agreed form of words: the principal sticking point had been the Taoiseach's refusal to express explicitly his support for the British Government's refusal to grant the hunger strikers political status. The Taoiseach had made clear during the course of the discussion that if there were a similar demand by prisoners in the Irish Republic, he would be prepared to see them die rather than grant it. But he was unwilling to involve himself directly in the issue in Northern Ireland.

J. Leaver
 P.P. (P Lever)

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cc: PS
 PS/LPS
 Mr Bullard
 Mr Fergusson
 R A Harrington Esq (NIO)
 M O'D B Alexander Esq (No. 10)
 HMA, Dublin