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INFO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN

NORTHERN IRELAND PRISONS PROTEST

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF MR HAUGHEY'S STATEMENT ISSUED EARLIER TODAY.

*Cleared
too long, short subject
+ annex. Spk to Stone
gave him short bit
then mm m.*

BEGINS

'1. THE HUNGER STRIKES IN THE MAZE PRISON ARE A CONTINUING SOURCE OF TENSION AND DANGER THROUGHOUT THIS ISLAND. THEY ARE WIDENING AND DEEPENING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THEY AFFECT NOT ONLY THOSE IMMEDIATELY INVOLVED BUT ALSO THEIR FAMILIES AND THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF WHICH THEY ARE A PART.

2. THERE IS A NEW URGENT AND COMPELLING NEED FOR ALL THOSE CONCERNED TO MAKE AN EARNEST ATTEMPT TO SEEK OUT A WAY TO BRING THIS TRAGIC SITUATION TO AN END. IN MY VIEW A PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY RESTS ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE EFFORT TO FIND A SOLUTION, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND BUT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE CONSEQUENCES OF FURTHER DEATHS ARE SO SERIOUS AND FAR REACHING THAT A SOLUTION WHICH WILL PREVENT THEM OCCURRING MUST BE FOUND AND I AM CONVINCED THAT THE TIME TO FIND SUCH A SOLUTION IS NOW.'

ENDS

2. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT WHICH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD LIKE TO ISSUE TOMORROW (TUESDAY). HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AN EARLY INDICATION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS CONTENT WITH THE STATEMENT, WHICH WILL BE PASSED TO THE IRISH SHORTLY BEFORE ISSUE.

BEGINS

'THE PRESENT PRISON PROTESTS EVOKE WIDESPREAD CONCERN FROM PEOPLE OF GOODWILL IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND ELSEWHERE. THIS CONCERN OFTEN TAKES THE FORM OF ASSERTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING AN INFLEXIBLE ATTITUDE AND THAT A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO MINOR MATTERS OF PRISON REGIME, WITHOUT FLOUTING ANY IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE, WOULD BRING THE PROTEST TO AN END - OR, EVEN IF IT DID NOT DO THAT, WOULD REASSURE THOSE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE ANXIOUS ABOUT THE HANDLING OF THE DISPUTE BY HMG. ONE PARTICULAR EXPRESSION OF SUCH CONCERN HAS RECENTLY COME FROM THE IRISH CATHOLIC

TO AN END OR, EVEN IF IT DID NOT DO THAT, WOULD REASSURE THOSE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE ANXIOUS ABOUT THE HANDLING OF THE DISPUTE BY HMG. ONE PARTICULAR EXPRESSION OF SUCH CONCERN HAS RECENTLY COME FROM THE IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, IN THEIR STATEMENT ISSUED ON 17 JUNE. ANOTHER (TO WHICH THE BISHOPS' STATEMENT ITSELF REFERRED) HAS COME FROM THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE (ICJP): THEY HAVE SUGGESTED THAT PRISONERS AT THE MAZE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO WEAR THEIR OWN CLOTHES AT ALL TIMES: THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASSOCIATION SHOULD BE INCREASED: AND THAT THE TYPE OF WORK REQUIRED OF PRISONERS SHOULD BE REVIEWED.

2. AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR ONCE AGAIN WHERE IT STANDS, NOT SIMPLY IN RESPONSE TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE URGING THE NEED FOR ACTION BUT ALSO IN RECOGNITION OF THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION THAT THE PRESENT HUNGER STRIKE HAS CREATED. SINCE 1 MARCH WHEN THE PRESENT HUNGER STRIKE BEGAN, FOUR YOUNG MEN HAVE DIED IN PRISON. 39 PEOPLE HAVE DIED OUTSIDE AND MANY HAVE BEEN INJURED: PROPERTY HAS BEEN DAMAGED: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE: AND, AS EVER, THE INNOCENT HAVE SUFFERED HEAVILY. ONLY THE MEN OF VIOLENCE HAVE GAINED.

3. THE GOVERNMENT FULLY UNDERSTANDS AND SYMPATHISES WITH THOSE WHO FEEL HUMANITARIAN CONCERN ABOUT THE PRISON PROTEST. NONE OF US SHOULD BE INDIFFERENT TO YOUNG MEN STARVING THEMSELVES TO DEATH. THAT CONCERN EXTENDS TO THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS - TORN BY A CRUEL CONFLICT OF LOYALTIES - AND TO ALL WHO ARE CAUGHT UP IN ANY WAY IN THE WIDER PROTESTS AND DISORDERS OUTSIDE THE PRISONS. IT EXTENDS ABOVE ALL TO THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND DISORDER AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THOSE SERVING IN THE SECURITY FORCES AND PRISON SERVICE, WHO IN DIFFERENT WAYS HAVE TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, OF THE PRISON PROTEST AND THE CAMPAIGN OF WHICH IT FORMS A PART. IN DECIDING HOW TO HANDLE THE PRISON PROTEST OUR CONCERN MUST EMBRACE ALL THESE INTERESTS. AND WE MUST NOT RESPOND TO THE PRESENT SITUATION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CREATE A NEW AND MORE DIFFICULT ONE.

4. IN DEALING WITH THIS SITUATION, FROM LONG BEFORE THE FIRST HUNGER STRIKE, THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECT HAS BEEN TO STAND FIRM ON TWO MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE.

5. FIRST, HMG CANNOT AS A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT CONFER ON ANY CLASS OF PRISONER 'POLITICAL STATUS', EITHER DIRECTLY OR BY GIVING PRISONERS THE RIGHT TO A PARTICULAR REGIME OR SET OF PRIVILEGES THAT WOULD SEGREGATE OR OTHERWISE DIFFERENTIATE THEM FROM OTHERS. THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ECHR), IN ITS RULING LAST YEAR ON AN APPLICATION BY FOUR PRISONERS IN THE MAZE PRISON, UPHELD THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THIS, DECLARING THAT THE RIGHT TO A PREFERENTIAL STATUS FOR A CERTAIN CATEGORY OF PRISONER IS NOT AMONG THE RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE CONVENTION.

6. SECONDLY, THE PRISON AUTHORITIES MUST RETAIN CONTROL OVER HOW THE PRISONS ARE RUN AND HOW LIFE GOES ON IN THEM. LIKE ANY ENLIGHTENED PRISON AUTHORITY, THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THAT PRISONS RUN BEST WHERE THERE IS A DEGREE OF MUTUAL TOLERANCE AND ACCEPTANCE BETWEEN STAFF AND INMATES: BUT THAT IS A FAR CRY FROM HANDING OVER, TO PRISONERS WHO REJECT THE WHOLE AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH THEY ARE IMPRISONED, CONTROL OVER (FOR EXAMPLE) HOW THEY SHALL PASS THE TIME AND WITH

TOLERANCE AND ACCEPTANCE BETWEEN STAFF AND INMATES: BUT THAT IS A FAR CRY FROM HANDING OVER, TO PRISONERS WHO REJECT THE WHOLE AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH THEY ARE IMPRISONED, CONTROL OVER (FOR EXAMPLE) HOW THEY SHALL PASS THE TIME AND WITH WHOM THEY SHALL ASSOCIATE. IT IS TRUE THAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT SITUATION AROSE IN 1972, A TIME OF LARGE-SCALE CIVIL DISORDER IN NORTHERN IRELAND: PRISONERS CONVICTED AT THAT TIME WERE ACCOMMODATED UNDER A REGIME WHICH WAS AND REMAINS DIFFERENT FROM THE NORMAL REGIME. THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIONS TO THAT ARRANGEMENT QUICKLY BECAME APPARENT, AND IT WAS CONDEMNED IN THE REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY IN 1975 PRESIDED OVER BY LORD GARDINER. THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION, FOLLOWED BY GOVERNMENTS SINCE, WAS THAT THIS REGIME SHOULD BE PHASED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. SUBJECT TO THESE PRINCIPLES THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING AND, AS PROVES PRACTICAL AND AS RESOURCES ALLOW, FURTHER IMPROVING AN ENLIGHTENED AND HUMANE REGIME WITH FLEXIBILITY IN ITS ADMINISTRATION. IN A STATEMENT MADE ON 23 OCTOBER 1980, WHEN THE FIRST HUNGER STRIKE WAS THREATENED, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, AFTER REITERATING THE GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPLES,

'ACKNOWLEDGED THE ECHR'S INJUNCTION THAT THE REQUIREMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE THEIR AUTHORITY TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALL PRISONERS, INCLUDING PROTESTERS, MAKES IT NECESSARY FOR THE PRISON AUTHORITIES TO KEEP UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW THEIR REACTION TO RECALCITRANT PRISONERS ENGAGED IN A DEVELOPING AND PROTRACTED PROTEST'.

THE STATEMENT WENT ON TO DECLARE THE GOVERNMENT'S ANXIETY 'TO ENSURE THAT CONDITIONS FOR (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) ALL PRISONERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND PRISONS ARE ENLIGHTENED AND HUMANE'.

8. THE GOVERNMENT SETS OUT BELOW THE POSITION REGARDING PRISON REGIMES IN NORTHERN IRELAND, IN PARTICULAR THE THREE ASPECTS WHICH FEATURE IN THE RECENT ICJP STATEMENT.
PRISON ACTIVITY (UNDERLINED)

9. IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN ENLIGHTENED PRISON SYSTEMS, AND HAS BEEN UPHOLDEN BY THE ECHR, THAT PEOPLE IN PRISON SHOULD SPEND PART OF THE DAY IN USEFUL ACTIVITY. FIRST, PRISONS ARE NOT HOTELS: THE DOMESTIC LIFE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT HAS TO GO ON, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PRISON AUTHORITIES, AND IT IS REASONABLE THAT PRISONERS SHOULD PLAY A PART IN MAINTAINING IT RATHER THAN EXPECT OTHERS TO DO THAT FOR THEM. BUT IT IS ALSO RIGHT THAT PRISONERS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE, THROUGH PRODUCTIVE WORK, TO RECOMPENSING THE SOCIETY WHOSE INTERESTS, INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE THEY HAVE DAMAGED: AND THAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY, BOTH VOCATIONAL AND MORE GENERAL, SHOULD OCCUPY PART OF THE TIME OF ALL PRISONERS AND A LARGE PART OF THE OCCUPATIONAL TIME OF SOME PRISONERS. EACH OF THOSE THREE KINDS OF OCCUPATION CAN BE AMPLY JUSTIFIED, AS REFLECTING THE DEMANDS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF NORMAL LIFE OUTSIDE PRISON - AND THIS APPROXIMATION TO NORMALITY IS ITSELF A VALUABLE OBJECTIVE OF PENAL PRACTICE AND ONE WITH A GENUINELY REHABILITATIVE ASPECT. ALL THREE ARE WELL PROVIDED FOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND PRISONS. A BALANCE HAS TO BE STRUCK AMONG THEM, IN THE INTERESTS OF PRISON MANAGEMENT, AS WELL AS THE NEEDS AND WISHES OF INDIVIDUAL INMATES.

10. THE GOVERNMENT SAID IN ITS STATEMENT ON 19 DECEMBER 1980, AND NOW RE-AFFIRM, THAT THE AIM IS TO WORK OUT FOR EACH PRISONER THE KINDS OF AVAILABLE ACTIVITY WHICH ARE JUDGED TO SUIT HIM BEST. THERE SHOULD BE NO OBSTACLE TO DESIGNING WORTHWHILE OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR PRISONERS WHO ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT - AS MOST DO - THE BROAD AND

1980, AND NOW RE-AFFIRM, THAT THE AIM IS TO WORK OUT FOR EACH PRISONER THE KINDS OF AVAILABLE ACTIVITY WHICH ARE JUDGED TO SUIT HIM BEST. THERE SHOULD BE NO OBSTACLE TO DEISING WORTHWHILE OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR PRISONERS WHO ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT - AS MOST DO - THE BROAD AND FLEXIBLE FRAMEWORK SET OUT ABOVE. IF HOWEVER, A PRISONER DECLARES HIMSELF UNAVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION TO ANY PARTICULAR KIND OF PRISON ACTIVITY, NOTWITHSZANDING THE BROAD AND FLEXIBLE FRAMEWORK, HE SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE THE SAME PRIVILEGES AS PRISONERS WHO DO ACCEPT THE FRAMEWORK. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT DO IS TO HAND OVER TO PRISONERS, INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS, THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHAT SHOULD BE THE NORMAL REGIME OFSTHE PRISON: THAT IS A BASIC ELEMENT OF PRISON MANAGEMENT.

*Ireland
Winger*

ASSOCIATION (UNDERLINED)

11. IT IS A COMMON FEATURE OF MODERN PRISONS TO PROVIDE TIME, IN THE EVENINGSSAND AT WEEKENDS, IN WHICH PRISONERS CAN RELAX IN ONE ANOTHER'S COMPANY, SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF PRISON SECURITY, WHICH MEANS THAT SUPERVISION IS NECESSARY SO AS TO MAINTAIN CONTROL AND GOOD ORDER, TO ENSURE THAT THE OPPORTUNITY IS NOT MISUSED, AND TO PROTECT PRISONERS FROM EACH OTHER. THAT IS WHAT DISTINGUISHES ASSOCIATION IN PRISON, FROM WHAT IS REFERRED TO AS 'FREE ASSOCIATION'. THE LATTER TERM IMPLIES ASSOCIATION THAT WOULD BE UNSUPERVISED, AND WOULD BE UNRESTRICTED BY THE AUTHORITIES AS REGARDS THE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES PERMITTED AND THE CHOICE OF ASSOCIATE. WHAT IT WOULD MEAN IN PRACTICE IS THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF PRISONERS - UP TO 100 OR EVEN MORE - COULD PASS THESTIME AS THEY CHOSE WITH FELLOW-MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN PARAMILITARY GROUPING, IN PURSUITS RELATED TO THE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WHICH HAE BROUGHT THEM INTO PRISBN. THIS WOULD CLEARLY INVOLVE A LOSS OF CONTROL WHICH NO PRUDENT PRISON AUTHRORITY COULD TOLERATE. SUBJECT TO THAT IMPORTANT DISTINCTION, PROVISION FOR ASSOCIATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND PRISONS IS GENEROUS AND IS NOT IMMUTABLE. ASSOCIATION IN WINGS IS ALLOWED FOR THREE HOURS EACH EVENING AND ALSO ALL DAY ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS. PRISONERS ALSO MIX WITH ONE ANOTHER AT VARIOUS OTHER TIMES - FOR EXAMPLE DURING EXERCISE, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, GAMES AND MEAL TIMES. A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES - GAMES% HOBBIES, CLASSES, TELEVISION - IS AVAILABLE FOR USE DURING PERIODS OF ASSOCIATION: PARTICULARS WERE GIVEN IN THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON REGIMES PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 1980.

CLOTHING (UNDERLINED)

12. AS PART OF ITS FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO PRISON MANAGEMENT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY SUBSTITUTED, FOR CONVENTIONAL PRISON UNIFORM, ORDINARY SHIRTS, TROUSERS AND PULLOVERS PURCHASED IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THESE ARE RETAINED BY A PRISONER AS HIS PEJSONAL CLOTHING. WEARING OFSTHIS CLOTHING IS REQUIRED ONLY DURING THE WORKING PART OF THE DAY (THOUGH MANY PRISONERS ARE CONTENT TO WEAR IT ALL THE TIME). DURING ASSOCIATION PERIODS AND AT WEEKENDS, PRISONERS MAY WEAR THEIR OWN CLOTHING.

VISITS, LETTERS ETC, AND REMISSION (UNDERLINED)

13. IN ADDITION TO THE THREE ASPECTS OF PRISON REGIME DEALT WITH ABOVE, THE PROTESTING PRISONERS ALSO DEMAFD ONE LETTER, ONE PARCEL AND ONE VISIT EACH WEEK. WHAT IS AVAIL- ABLE TO PRISONERS NOT ENGAGED IN THE PROTESTS ALREADY MATCHES OR EXCEEDS THIS. THEY CAN AT PRESENT SEND UP TO 8 LETTERS A MONTH AT THE AUTHORITIES' EXPENSE. RECEIVE 4 VISITS A

LETTER, ONE PARCEL AND ONE VISIT. PRISONERS ABLE TO PRISONERS NOT ENGAGED IN THE PROTESTS ALREADY MATCHES OR EXCEEDS THIS. THEY CAN AT PRESENT SEND UP TO 8 LETTERS A MONTH AT THE AUTHORITIES' EXPENSE, RECEIVE 4 VISITS A MONTH, AND RECEIVE A WEEKLY PARCEL OF READING MATERIAL, FRUIT AND TOILET ARTICLES. THESE ALLOWANCES ARE LIBERAL BY THE STANDARDS OF MANY PRISON ADMINISTRATIONS. SOME LIMIT HAS TO BE SET TO WHAT CAN BE PERMITTED IN THESE RESPECTS, NOT FOR PUNITIVE REASONS BUT BECAUSE OF THE DEMANDS THAT THE SUPERVISION ETC REQUIRED - ESPECIALLY IN CONDITIONS OF HIGH SECURITY - PLACES UPON THE STAFF AND OTHER RESOURCES OF THE PRISON.

14. FINALLY, THE NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON SYSTEM, IN COMMON WITH A NUMBER OF OTHERS, GRANTS PRISONERS REMISSION OF PART OF THEIR SENTENCE SUBJECT TO GOOD CONDUCT. THE PROPORTION OF SENTENCE REMITTED WAS INCREASED FROM ONE-THIRD TO ONE-HALF SOME YEARS AGO. REMISSION CAN BE FORFEITED FOR MISCONDUCT, AND HAS BEEN FORFEITED IN CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES BY PROTESTING PRISONERS ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR BREACHES OF PRISON RULES. PRISONERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE 'DIRTY PROTEST' LOST A FULL DAY'S REMISSION FOR EVERY DAYSON PROTEST. HOWEVER, WHEN THAT FORM OF PROTEST ENDED, THE AUTHORITIES RESPONDED PROMPTLY BY HALVING THE RATES OF REMISSION BEING FORFEITED BY PROTESTING PRISONERS.

15. REMISSION FORFEITED FOR MISCONDUCT CAN BE RESTORED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY, AFTER SUBSEQUENT GOOD BEHAVIOUR. PRISONERS WHO HAVE ABANDONED THEIR PROTEST HAVE HAD UP TO ONE-FIFTH OF THE REMISSION LOST FOR NON-VIOLENT PROTEST ACTION RESTORED TO THEM.

CONCLUSION

16. IF THE PROTESTING PRISONERS ARE SEEKING A REGIME WHICH DIFFERENTIATES THEM FROM OTHER PRISONERS, GIVES THEM CONTROL OVER THEIR LIVES IN PRISON AND ENABLES THEM TO CLAIM THE STATUS OF POLITICAL PRISONER AND ALL THAT THAT IMPLIES, THEN THEY WILL SEEK IN VAIN. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE NOW IN THE AREAS OF WORK, CLOTHING AND ASSOCIATION AS A GESTURE IN THE HOPE OF ENDING THE HUNGER STRIKE. THE GOVERNMENT DOES LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE. THE GREAT DIFFICULTY ABOUT SUCH A MOVE IS THAT IT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE HOPE THAT POLITICAL STATUS BASED ON THE SO-CALLED 5 DEMANDS COULD STILL BE ACHIEVED.

17. IMPROVEMENTS IN THE GENERAL PRISON REGIME ARE A DIFFERENT MATTER. AS THE PARAGRAPHS ABOVE DEMONSTRATE, IN THE 3 ASPECTS PICKED OUT BY THE ICJP, AND IN OTHER ASPECTS, THE NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON REGIME IS GENEROUS, AND HAS BEEN AND WILL BE ADMINISTERED FLEXIBLY BY THE AUTHORITIES. THERE (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) IS SCOPE FOR YET FURTHER DEVELOPMENT. IT MAY BE THAT THE PROTESTING PRISONERS ARE RELUCTANT TO ABANDON THEIR PROTEST BECAUSE THEY DO NOT TRUST THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE PRISON REGIME. FOR THEM, THE GUARANTEE IS THAT OUR COMMITMENT IS DECLARED IN THIS AND SIMILAR STATEMENTS, AND IS THERE FOR ALL TO SEE. WHAT WE SAID PUBLICLY WOULD HAPPEN TO THOSE GIVING UP THEIR PROTESTS HAS HAPPENED TO THE (SQUARE BRACKETSON - GAP - SQUARE BRACKETS OFF) WHO HAVE DONE SO. (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) BUT IT MUST BE EMPHASISED THAT THIS IMPROVEMENT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN ALL BE ACCOMPLISHED OVERNIGHT. PRISONS ARE COMPLEX INSTITUTIONS. THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECURITY, AND THE PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INMATE POPULATION, ADD TO THEIR COMPLEXITY. THEY ARE RUN BY STAFF DOING A DIFFICULT AND HAZARDOUS JOB, WHOSE INTERESTS MUST BE GIVEN PROPER CONSIDERATION. ALL THIS MEANS THAT PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE MUST BE FULLY AND CAREFULLY WEIGHED, AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS EXPLORED, BEFORE THEY ARE ADOPTED. THIS PROCESS CANNOT PROCEED FURTHER WHILE THE HUNGER STRIKE PLACES THE AUTHORITIES UNDER DURESS.'

ENDS