

HUNGER STRIKE: MESSAGE TO BE SENT THROUGH THE CHANNEL

The British Government is prepared if, but only if, it would lead to an immediate end to the hunger strike, and protest to issue a statement which would include the following points:

- (i) The clothing regime in Armagh Prison would be applied to all prisons in Northern Ireland (i.e. own clothes subject to approval) *of the Prison Governor.*
- (ii) Parcels, visits and letters would be made available on the same basis as for conforming prisoners at present;
- (iii) On work, association and remission the Government's position will be as set out in the Secretary of State's statement of 30 June. However, emphasis will be laid on the Government's record of its readiness to administer the regime flexibly, and on the "scope for yet further developments". *But it must be absolutely clear that*

*(iv) On work ~~association~~ the Prison authorities must retain the right to decide what work shall be done.*

If we receive a satisfactory response to this proposal by *11.00 a.m.* 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday 7 July we shall be prepared to provide you *very early* with an advance text of the full statement.

If the reply we receive is unsatisfactory and there is subsequently any public reference to this exchange we shall deny that it took place. Silence will be taken as an unsatisfactory reply.

*within this fundamental rule further kinds of work are added to the schedule for time to time.*

*we have in possible in the present position. what of the 30 June.*