

BF 17/6

FROM: JOHN FISHER
ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
11 June 1996

RO/34053/96/et

17/6
Mrs. Sear

cc Mr Legge
Mr Thomas
Mr Shannon
Mr Bell
Mr Stephens
Mr White
HMA Dublin

for file -
this is
all
under
control
E 17/6

- B
- B
- B
- B
- B
- B

Ms Checksfield - B

IGC 22 MAY 1996 - PRISONS ISSUES

You will be aware from recent correspondence (Mr Legge's note of 23 May and Mr Bell's of 24 May) that the Irish raised a number of GB prison matters relating to Irish prisoners in HMP Whitemoor, Belmarsh and Full Sutton. At a recent Delegation Meeting, the Irish raised these issues again, indicating that the Secretary of State had undertaken to look into their queries.

Prisons Gen

2. The details are as follows:-

2 PA IGC

Deferral of Trial Date for Whitemoor escapees: The Irish side understand that the date of trial of 5 republican prisoners charged with attempted escape from Whitemoor prison has been deferred from April to September this year. They understand that this was not at the request of the Defence, and have asked what were the reasons for deferral.

Conditions for Republican Prisoners in HMP Belmarsh, HMP Full Sutton and HMP Whitemoor: The Irish side have indicated that conditions are becoming increasingly strained because of tighter security and the absence of progress or movement "in almost all aspects" of the prisoners' treatment and conditions. The following allegations have been made:

- FROM: Clara Checkfield
IPU
17 June 1996
- i) inadequate provision of medical or dental treatment;
 - (ii) inadequate food;
 - (iii) sleep deprivation (HMP Belmarsh);
 - (iv) delays and loss of mail (HMP Belmarsh and HMP Full Sutton);
 - (v) increased restrictions on visiting arrangements;
 - (vi) delays in acknowledging and dealing with requests.

3. The Irish side have also indicated that the prisoners will launch a protest if the policy of "squatting" searches is implemented.

Compensation Claims for Miscarriage of Justice:-

The Irish side have asked that the issue of the sums of compensation offered to "the Birmingham six", Anne Maguire and others be resolved as a matter of urgency.

4. I would be grateful for any comments from the Home Office to pass on to the Irish side.

(Signed)

JOHN FISHER