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FROM:

M A MOGG
Director of Operational Management
13 August 1997



cc PS/Secretary of State - G
PS/PUS (B&L) - O
PS/Sir David Fell - O
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PS - MR ADAM INGRAM

SITUATION - MAZE PRISON 13 AUGUST 1997

The Minister will wish to be aware of some difficulties at Maze prison overnight. Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) Prisoners housed in H6 C&D wings refused to leave the visits area yesterday afternoon and failed to co-operate in the headcount later in the evening. This escalated this morning when they again objected to a headcount and commenced the erection of barricades within the wings.

2. Staff were withdrawn from the wings and all movement out of the blocks concerned has been stopped.

3. The prisoners subsequently gained access to the block roof for a short time but returned to the wings and exercise yards following the deployment of staff on the roof. INLA prisoners in the adjoining wings have been evacuated and reports have been received of smoke emanating from the wings. A number of staff have gone off duty suffering from the effects of smoke. There are, however, no other reported injuries.

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4 Domestic visits for prisoners not involved in the disruption are continuing as normal.

5 The action is believed to be associated with their demand for better education and recreation facilities and equal treatment with other prison groups. These prisoners currently receive their visits in the prison hospital. This was envisaged as a temporary arrangement following the transfer of LVF prisoners from HMP Maghaberry on 25 April 97, pending other facilities being made available. Management proposals for the provision of alternative and better arrangements are currently being worked on by the Manpower Team.

6 The situation remains tense and is being carefully monitored. Plans are being laid for the use of intervention teams to bring the situation under control.

*Martin Mogg***M A MOGG**