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Reference Code:	2002/8/494
Title:	Letter from HJ McCann, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, to HJ O'Dowd, Private Secretary to the Taoiseach, regarding representations made to members of the Irish government concerning persons interned in Northern Ireland.
Creation Date(s):	16 November, 1971
Level of description:	Item
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions:	Open
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ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Foreign
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

16 Samhain 1971

Dear Private Secretary

As you are aware representations have been made with
increasing frequency to the Taoiseach and to the Minister
about individual internees.   So far the policy has been
not to take any specific action in individual cases for
the following reasons:-

(1) as far as we know practically all internees
    are Irish citizens and it would not be right
    to differentiate between them and, in particular,
    to distinguish between 26-county and 6-county
    residents;

(2) it would be clearly unfair to take action only
    in relation to cases where the detainee happened
    to have the contacts and ability to use the
    channels of protest;   and

(3) to make representations in some cases could be
    taken as implying that we thought internment
    might be justified in other cases.

For these reasons the view here is that we should continue
to attack the policy of internment on the broad front and
not make representations in individual cases.   The
Minister suggests that if the Taoiseach agrees with this
view he might consider letting the basis of this policy
be known.

Yours sincerely

[signature]

H. J. O'Dowd, Esq.
Private Secretary to the Taoiseach
Department of the Taoiseach

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16. 11. 71