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Statement by Commissioners Saturday Night 25 April 1981

As stated in a previous press communique issued on 24 April the purpose of the visit of the delegation to the Maze Prison was to see Mr. R. Sands with a view to obtaining his confirmation that he intends to make the application and if so to discuss with him the contents and the handling of the application.

The delegation visited the Maze Prison on 25 April and ascertained through the intermediary of a solicitor his intentions as regards the above application lodged on his behalf.

The delegation established that Mr. Sands did not wish to associate himself with the application.

Nevertheless he expressed a willingness to see the delegation in the presence of three persons named by him in a press statement recently issued in his name.

After further consultations the delegation concluded that in the circumstances it was not possible to see and confer with Mr. Sands and accordingly no meeting took place.

End.

c.c. PSS
PSM
Mr. Neligan
Mr. Burke
Mr. Whelan
Mr. Kirwan (D/Taoiseach)
Ambassador London