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h/h

① Brian Collinge  
② PA.

15. 7. 81.

Letter handed over to President Reagan 14 July, 1981

Dear Mr. President,

On the happy occasion of your visiting the Embassy of Ireland today, I wish to ask your help on a matter of great urgency and importance.

Since its inception our State has had to fight an almost continuous battle against terrorism which is now at a critical stage.

My Government deeply appreciate your firm opposition to support for terrorism in Ireland by Americans. We also appreciate the courageous leadership shown in this matter by prominent Americans of Irish extraction notably Speaker O'Neill.

The hunger strike crisis in Northern Ireland has increased support for terrorist organisations, is benefitting them and is now seriously threatening our security.

The hunger striker next expected to die, Kieran Doherty, is an elected member of our own legislature. It is expected that he will die on Friday next.

I beg you to use your enormous influence with the British Prime Minister within the next 24 hours to implement immediately an already existing understanding mediated by the Commission of Justice and Peace of the Irish Catholic Hierarchy to avert his death so preventing the very dangerous consequences which would inevitably follow.

With my best wishes

Yours sincerely  
Garret FitzGerald