

Desk by 17.15 hrs, hl.

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Reference.....

File

PS 473/80

RESTRICTED

Mr Jackson

LOYALIST HUNGER STRIKE - DEVELOPMENTS AT MAZE

1. Following the announcement today that 6 Loyalists would begin a hunger strike on Friday (12 December), 139 protestant prisoners at Maze refused to go to work this morning.

H1 - 19
H2 - 13
H7 - 63
H8 - 44

Another 3 joined the 'clean' blanket protest, making 15 in all.

2. The reasons given for the action were to obtain political status and 'segregation from republicans'. No mention was made of the prospective hunger strike and no intelligence has come to light as to the likely 6 candidates. H L T Murphy in H7 attempted to act as spokesman but was not allowed to do so. Both UDA and UVF affiliated prisoners are involved.

3. There is considerable evidence of intimidation inside the prison and a number of prisoners expressed concern about their relatives outside.

A K Templeton

A K TEMPLETON

PRB 1

8 December 1980

CC PS/Secretary of State B&L(M)
PS/Mr Alison B&L(M)
PS/PUS B&L(M)
Mr Blelloch
Mr Barry
Mr Wyatt
Mr Burns
Mr Gilliland
Mr Buxton (M)
Mr Gee
Miss MacGlashan
Mr R E Templeton
Miss McGowan
Mr Corbett (M)
Mr Black
Mr Beattie

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