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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

HUNGER STRIKE 2. - RAYMOND McCREESH

On Saturday, 16 May, Raymond McCreesh was on day 56 of his hunger strike. He was confined to bed and was described by the doctors as in a confused and disorientated state of mind as to time, place and person.

At around 6 pm he had a conversation with the Prison Hospital Officer, and in the course of that conversation, said that he would take a drink of milk. contacted the doctor on call and asked him to come in to the prison to see McCreesh.

On arrival found McCreesh in a confused state of mind but despite this gave an affirmative answer to the question from the doctor "Do you want me to save your life?"

did not regard this answer as sufficient to authorise medical intervention in view of the mental state of the patient and took two steps to have the matter clarified. He asked for the family to be brought to the prison and also contacted in the absence of in England.

The family (mother, sister, brother and priest/brother) arrived at about the same time as Dr Bill (around 9 pm).

explained to the family that McCreesh was very confused but had asked for milk and medical resuscitation.

The family then saw McCreesh and the following conversation between the priest/brother and McCreesh was overheard.

"Q. Where are you?

A. I am in hospital in Scotland.

You are not in hospital in Scotland you are in Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

(Later) Your brother and I were proud to carry the coffins of Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes - they are in heaven now waiting

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and then met the McCreesh family when the following short dialogue occurred.

Q. Do you wish us to try to resuscitate Raymond and try to save his life?

Answer by priest/brother. No. We know Raymond's wishes and we respect them. Nothing is to be done.

The doctors accepted this clear decision of the family and the interview ended. It was now around 10 pm.

*Tom Belin*

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