

CONFIDENTIAL

HM Prison, Maze Cellular

18 May 1981

Sir,

I was senior officer in charge of the Prison Hospital on Saturday, 16 May, during association period.

Hospital Officer Lennon told me that he was of the opinion that C354/77 McCREESH, a prisoner on hunger strike, may wish to stop this protest.

At this time this inmate was being visited by the Prison Chaplain, Fr Toner. When the visit was completed at approximately 1825 hours, I entered the ward accompanied by HO Lennon.

Having asked McCreesh how he was feeling, I explained to him the folly of not taking water to drink and also told him that there had been no urine passed all day. I gave the inmate a drink of water which he took slowly, and I pointed out that he could have milk or any sustenance all he had to do was ask for it. McCreesh expressed a desire to pray and he was left alone to do so.

On coming out from McCreesh's ward I was told that Dr Emerson wanted to speak to me on the telephone. During the course of conversation I mentioned that there was a possibility that McCreesh may wish to end the hunger strike and Dr Emerson advised me that he would arrive in the prison shortly.

Dr Emerson went to see McCreesh escorted by HO Lennon. Some minutes later HO Lennon asked the Evening Duty Principal Officer, Mr Orr, who had arrived in the hospital, and myself, to go to McCreesh's ward. When we arrived in the ward, Dr Emerson said to McCreesh. "Do you want me to try to save your life". McCreesh replied "Yes" in a strong voice.

CONFIDENTIAL

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354/77 McCreesh was repeatedly told to remember where he was, not to get confused and not to listen to anyone only his family.

At 2200 hours, his visitors left the ward to see Dr Bill, reminding 354/77 McCreesh not to get confused and that they would see him tomorrow (Sunday).

Later I learned that the McCreesh family said that he had made the decision whilst he was in sound mind and the decision to remain on hunger strike stood.

I am Sir,
Paul LENNON, 628

The Governor

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