

cc: Mr Blelloch
Mr Wyatt
Mr Jackson ✓
Miss MacGlashan
Mr Harrington (L)

- J.M. 3/7*
1. Mr Blatherwick
 2. PS/Mr Alison (B and L)

MRS EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER

1. Further to my minute of yesterday's date on this subject Miss Moreland confirmed today that the Minister had agreed to meet Mrs Shriver and her son at Hillsborough at 6 pm on Sunday. Arrangements for this meeting are now being finalised.

2. PS/Mr Alison has indicated that officials need not be present at the meeting and that the Minister will not require any special briefing. One point may however be worth considering prior to Sunday. If Bobby Shriver succeeds in making contact next week with the families of the hunger strikers (as he apparently wishes to do) he may well pass on to them his impression of the Government's position as derived from his meeting with the Minister, and these views could obviously filter through to the hunger strikers themselves and have some bearing on whether or not they give up their protest. Naturally there is no question of our using the Shriviers as intermediaries, but since they would be taking the initiative themselves in making contact with the families the Minister may well feel that we should not overlook this opportunity of registering our message (especially via a relative of the late President, whose memory is much respected in Irish Catholic circles).

3. Accordingly, Mr Alison may wish to draw on the points in the attached note (avoiding any suggestion that we are commissioning the Shriviers to deliver a message) if Mrs Shriver or her son raise their intention of making contact with the families.

Stephen J. Leach

S J LEACH
PAB
3 July 1981

*Mr Tammelin Mr. Nabell
APC
6.7.81*

*All this is to some extent
affected by the Purnima's statement issued
on Friday.*

ENC 3 JUL 1981

Ref: PAB/811/DE

*SCT
6.7.81*

POINTS TO BE GOT ACROSS TO THE PRISONERS

1. There is nothing to be gained by dying.
2. HMG, as Mr Atkins indicated in his 30 June statement, will not make any changes under the duress of a hunger-strike.
3. If the hunger-strike ends "there is scope for further developments in the prison regime though this improvement is not something that can all be accomplished overnight". And there is no question of changes which would mean a special status for anyone, or surrendering control to the prisoners.
4. The hunger-strikers are being manipulated by the Provisional leadership who are losing nothing by encouraging the suffering of others. Statements are put out in the hunger-strikers' names in drafting which they have played no part. They are no longer even allowed to choose their own legal advisors. And their families are kept in thrall by the PSF.
5. Time is not on the hunger-strikers' or the Provisionals' side. Mr Atkins' statement has been welcomed by the ICJP, the Catholic Church, the SDLP and by world opinion. The onus is now seen to be on the hunger-strikers to make the next move. They will not be letting down their comrades, those who have died, others in the prison, or those outside. It is by giving up that something can be achieved. An humane prison regime is there for the taking.
6. Nobody needs to give up alone. It is quite clear that all of those at serious risk of dying realise they will do so for no good reason - not even for fame since nobody now remembers any name other than that of SANDS. The world's press is bored by the hunger-strikes and by deaths.

1 July 1981

S E C R E T

E.R.

cc: PS/Secretary of State (B and L)
PS/Mr Patten (B and L)
Mr Blelloch
Mr Wyatt
Mr Gilliland
Mr Jackson ✓
Mr Harrington (L)*
Miss Thomas (Central Secretariat)
Mr Coulson (DHSS)*

- Alison*
2/7
1. Mr Blatherwick
 2. PS/Mr Alison (B and L)

* with copy of Miss Moreland's minute

MRS EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER

Miss Moreland's minute of 1 July refers. In my view, there is every reason to advise Mr Alison to go ahead with the meeting with Mrs Shriver and her son at Hillsborough on Sunday. Through her family background Mrs Shriver is an important representative of responsible Irish-American opinion, and this potentially valuable opportunity for the Minister to give her an informal but authoritative statement of the Government's position should not be passed over. SIL agree with this advice.

2. The reported desire of Mrs Shriver's son Bobby to visit the families of the hunger strikers is solely a matter for him: it is not for us to arrange such an encounter. The meeting with Mr Alison would however help the Shriviers to put in its proper context any subsequent contacts with the families.

3. I therefore recommend that Mr Alison's office should go back to Mrs Greer to finalise a meeting between the Minister and Mrs Shriver and her son on Sunday.

Stephen J. Leach

S J LEACH
Political Affairs Branch
2 July 1981

Mr Nagell

Mr Tompkins

hvt

5/7/81 JCT

3.7.81

Ref: PAB/1781/DE

3 JUL 1981

E.R.

Mr. Nalzell

Mr. TempletonAMT
2.7I do not propose to
offer an input to this

Mr Blatherwick

SCT

2.7.81

1. At the Garden Party at Hillsborough yesterday Mr Alison was approached by Mrs Evelyn Greer, Director of Regional Services for the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults. Mrs Greer informed the Minister that Mrs Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a sister of the Late President J F Kennedy, would be visiting Northern Ireland on Sunday next (5 July) in her capacity as President of International Special Olympics. Mrs Greer who is Chairman of the Northern Ireland Special Olympics Committee has been asked by Mrs Kennedy Shriver to arrange a programme for the visit, and to include in the programme a meeting with Mr John Hume and a tour of Belfast. Mrs Greer asked Mr Alison if she could also arrange to bring her to meet him sometime on Sunday afternoon or evening. The Minister who is Duty Minister this weekend agreed in principle and suggested an informal meeting in Hillsborough Castle over a cup of tea or a drink.

2. However, when I telephoned Mrs Greer this morning re the timing etc of the meeting she informed me that Mrs Kennedy Shriver had phoned last night and told her that she was now planning to extend her visit to Northern Ireland and to stay until Thursday 9 July. She would be accompanied by her son Bobby, a 26 year old law graduate who has expressed a desire to visit the families of the hunger strikers during his visit to Northern Ireland. Mrs Greer stressed that she would not be involved in such a visit, she said that she saw Mrs Shriver's visit as a major boost to Northern Ireland Special Olympics and would endeavour to fill the programme with visits related to her work with the Mentally Handicapped. However, she did feel it would be helpful if the Minister could meet Mrs Kennedy Shriver and her son sometime on Sunday afternoon.

2 JUL 1981

E.R.

3. Before any firm plans are made for a meeting I would welcome your advice and also the views any of the copy recipients of the note may have. I understand that Mrs Green has already informed the Press Officer in DHSS of the proposed visit.

H E Moreland
H E MORELAND (MISS)
APS/Mr Alison
1 July 1981

cc: PS/SofS (B&L) M
PS/Mr Patten (B&L) M
Mr Blelloch
Mr Wyatt
Mr Jackson ✓
Mr Gilliland
Miss Thomas - Cent Sec

LB