

E. R.

*Mr Mitchell  
to see + PA with other allegations  
of injuries papers - M 14/10/83*

Northern Ireland Office  
DUNDONALD HOUSE

*Pa - allegations of brutality file*

MR PALMER

**MAZE ESCAPE - INJURIES/ALLEGED INJURIES TO CERTAIN PRISONERS**

You have seen my minute of 11 October to the Governor, Maze (Cellular) asking for a written report on the Father Faul and other allegations. We also have Dr Bill's informative minute of 10 October about the problems which faced the medical services at the prison on the days immediately following the escape.

2. As far as the complaints of mistreatment are concerned, we shall have to await the Governor's report. But a number of prisoners have asked to see solicitors, and while this may be postponed while the prisoners are required to be more specific about their allegations we shall in the end have to allow them all to seek legal advice. It does seem from Dr Bill's report and from discussions which I have had with him that a number of prisoners were bitten, or nipped, by dogs in the course of the transfer from H7 to H8 on the Sunday evening; I do not know precisely how this move was carried out or supervised, or how it was that any dogs used were not properly leashed. One has to make due allowance for the tensions in the immediate aftermath of the escape and the killing of Officer Ferris and the wounding of other officers, but I do not think these considerations will enable us successfully to defend legal actions or, say, complaints to the PCA.

3. We shall also have great problems if, as a result of legal actions or any other avenue of complaint, we are required to explain the virtual absence of medical services during the whole week commencing Monday 26 September. This means that no prisoner who had wished to see a doctor about alleged injuries would have been seen until Monday 3 October unless he was in the punishment cells or the hospital. I understand that matters have now returned pretty well to normal; Dr Bill will discuss with me again if there are any further problems which cannot be resolved locally.

4. Dr Bill, for his part, has no information to suggest that any prisoners received injuries on any occasion subsequent to Sunday 25 September. We have asked the Governor to deal with suggestions that there were "reprisals" subsequent to that day (including Father Faul's allegations in regard to prisoners who were returned from Castlereagh).

S C JACKSON

12 October 1983

cc Mr Kerr  
Miss Simmons  
Miss McGowan  
Mrs Hildebrand ✓

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