

CONFIDENTIAL

23 FEB 1984

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Mr Mitchell
PA pl on segregation
Mrs Heesand file
JLJ
27/2/84
24.2.84

PS/MR SCOTT (B & L) (MUFAX)

END OF LOYALIST PROTEST AT MAZE

As discussed this morning I attach a short press release which I think it would be helpful to issue if the point is not covered today at Question Time.

Silence by us will be taken as consent to the present status quo at the Maze and in order to keep our options for movement open we need to restate our position.

Brian Palmer

B D PALMER

23 February 1984

- cc PS/S of S (B & L) M
- PS/PUS (B & L) M
- PS/Sir E Bell
- Mr Brennan M
- Mr Bourn
- Mr Buxton
- Mr Merifield
- Mr Angel M
- Mr Gilliland
- Mr Doyne-Ditmas
- Mr Edis
- Mr Reeve
- Mr Boys Smith M
- Mr Wood M
- Mr Jackson**
- Mr Kerr
- Miss Simmons
- Mr D McNeill
- Mr R Templeton
- Mr Ginn
- Mr S McNeill

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/DRAFT STATEMENT

Mr Scott, the Minister responsible for prisons, welcomed the ending yesterday of the protest action by 119 Loyalist prisoners in Maze Prison. All have said that they would now accept the directions of the Governor as to accommodation and work in the prison. Immediate action has therefore been taken by the Governor to restore the full privileges of conforming prisoners to all 119 men.

On the question of lost remission, Mr Scott said -

"I am prepared to examine this question in the light of the actions of the prisoners rather than on their statements."

He added that - "The Government remains firmly opposed to a policy of segregation based on political or paramilitary affiliation. Decisions as to where prisoners are to be accommodated in the prison must therefore remain in the hands of the prison authorities and cannot be determined by prisoners themselves."

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