

E. R.

CONFIDENTIAL

*Mr. Mitchell 17
To see + PA on file.
I suppose we have had
no other comments on
the earlier paper.
M.A. 7/3/84*

*Fuchs & H.C. -
Some more for
the "way forward"
file. 26/7/84*

Mr Palmer

MAZE CELLULAR - RESTRICTED REGIME: SOME DISCUSSION POINTS

1. I still broadly have the same misgivings I expressed to you on 18 April 1983 about this type of proposal. I recognise however that there seems to have been a fundamental shift in both prisoners' behaviour and the attitude of staff at Maze. Our room for manoeuvre - or in effect retreat - seems limited. Some pros and cons which have occurred to us are set out in the note attached.

2. My view is that a stand should be made against acceptance of segregation as it is a firm step towards the return of special category. However to make any kind of stand is almost impossible given the present anarchic activities by staff at many levels. Industrial action continues ~~and~~ infinitum among uniform staff. Some senior staff remain remarkably unconstructive in their day to day dealings with the Department and one or two seem prepared to leak almost anything to the press to embarrass us. Until we can obtain some measure of order in the Service I fear we are on a hiding to nothing in terms of implementing strategic objectives. We should I think attempt to bring the Service with us on this one and there would therefore be merit in consulting urgently with senior Governors.

William J. Kerr.

W J KERR
Director of Prison Operations

1 March 1984

cc: Mr Jackson
Miss Simmons
Mr Ginn
Mr Semple
Mr S McNeill
Mr A Templeton
Mrs Hildebrand ✓
Mr Wilson

CONFIDENTIAL

CONS

1. The Republicans will outflank us again by propaganda/attitude pressure and through the basic imbalance of the prison population. Why should they be subject to a less favourable regime while they have been 'conforming' all along? Can we sustain putting all segregated republicans into this regime in that we cannot put them to the test within a reasonable timescale. There are just too few Protestants to too many pseudo-conforming RC's. If prisoners are truly conforming, an imbalance would not matter - but can we sustain such an argument presentationally? Can we just brazen it out with the republicans?
2. It is a step back to special category. We will have 'accepted' segregation by broad paramilitary association without formal punishment.
3. The restricted regime will be eroded by local pressure on staff and political pressure on the Secretary of State.
4. The difficulties of how to enter and leave (paramilitary manipulation).
5. The 'tariff' is so small as to be little more than an annoyance.
6. Loss of flexibility of accommodation continues.
7. Is it defensible to apply the restricted regime without testing the genuineness of a prisoner's avowed conformity?
8. If it is not defensible what test is applied apart from putting prisoners in mixed wings with the potential of interfactional fighting or attacks on staff.
9. Any restrictions on work would be welcomed by prisoners.

RESTRICTED REGIME AT MAZE CELLULAR

- Pros:
1. We cannot sustain a punishment regime.
 - i. The Governor has told us that further forced integration will result in attacks on staff (by both sides) and on prisoners (by the loyalists). We cannot therefore obtain candidates for punishment.
 - ii. The candidates would again probably all be loyalist. The republicans will hit the staff - outside - and not the loyalist prisoners. We would therefore be back at square one - with the staff under attack from both sides and some sympathy among staff for the loyalists.
 2. We hit both sides (hopefully!).
 3. We have a presentational look in terms of Hennessy - recruiting and control of segregated blocks.
 4. End of punishment regime/role.
 5. Loyalists find this broadly acceptable: reduce threats on staff.