

E. R. 23 OCT 1978

288/78 Att A

Sec

MUFAX

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cc PS/S of S (L & B)
PS/Mr Concannon (L & B)
Mr Hannigan - or
Mr Janes
Mr Irvine
Mr Marshall
Mr Ford
Mr Barry
Mr Jackson

PS/PUS (L & B)

PROTESTERS IN THE H BLOCK

The Secretary of State has seen Mr Hannigan's note of 20 October and would like to discuss it, but before doing so, he would like to see the further material promised by Mr Irvine. The Secretary of State's first reaction is that this is not the right time for humanitarian relaxations/concessions. He points out that we could offer something to cleanse our consciences and because it would be good PR only to find that the prisoners gobbled up the concessions and pressed on for more. Before any discussion the Secretary of State would also like:

- information about the prison regime in the South and the manner in which changes have been made in the last few years
- advice as to whether the "European" case has got any chance
- to be told what is known of the views the Governor and his judgment of the likely attitudes of the prison officers.

J G Pilling

J G PILLING -
Private Secretary

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