

Mr Blelloch

Mr Jackson has asked me to send you the enclosed
copies of letters found during a wing move in H3
Block on 15 February 1981.

They did not reach their intended destinations.



E S DALZELL
PRB(1)

20 February 1981

cc Mr Wyatt
Mr Barry ✓
Miss McGlashan
Mr Gee



2 sec

2 Mr Dalzell.

ENC

Dear PA



24.2.81.

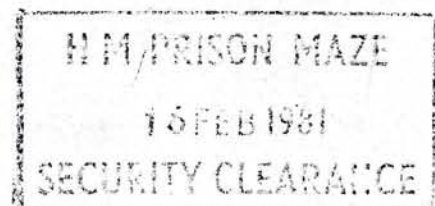
RmcD

TO: THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA

Comrades and Brothers in the common cause of liberty, the British occupation of Ireland is a womb which has given birth to many a shameful episode but to-days H Block and Armagh Womans Prison Barbarity must surely stand forth as a clear embodiment of all that is repugnant in superialist repression, for almost 5 years a concerted campaign of torture and barbarity has been waged against naked and defenseless Republican socialist prisoners who simply refuse to yield to Britains policy of criminalisation. This policy enacted in 1976 was designed to internationally depoliticise the war of liberation being waged on the streets of Northern Ireland. We the capture combatants of that war have in spite of constant lock-up, total deprivation of everything but food and bedding and fierce physical assault, resisted all such attempts. In April 1978 we were forced to embark on a no wash type protest to highlight our dire plight. This failed to secure us our rightful political recognition and so on October 27th last we embarked on a H/S. This coupled with world wide pressure was to force the British to come to us with an eleventh hour promise to implementing a just and satisfactory resolution to the problem. We in good faith accepted this promise termed by the British as a strong committment, but much to our horror we were to discover that this had been nothing but an underhand ploy to release the vast amount of political pressure which was facing the British. On learning this we immediately began preparations for another H/S which shall commence on March 1st. Ours is simply the position of those with no choice and so we must once more take our lives in hand in an attempt to assert our just demands. Alone we shall perish but with world wide assistance we shall again a much deserved and glorious victory. I ask you comrades to lend your weight to such an aim, lives are at stake so I beg of you not to flag in your efforts until victory is ours. Victory to the Socialist Revolution. Yours in anticipation.

BOBBY SANDS RSPOW
H BLOCKS LONG KESH

Excuse brevity of letter Comrades but due to total restrictions it must be so.



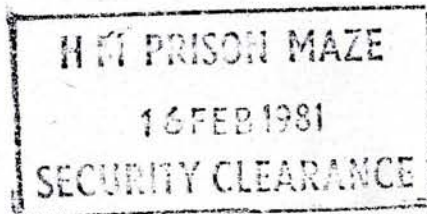
TO: F.L.O. QUEBEC PROVINCE

FRANK HUGHES
REPUBLICAN P.O.W.
H BLOCKS

Comrades, in writing to you appealing for your support, feel at ease and confident knowing that you, like ourselves are engaged in long struggle for your god given right to Nationhood. We the captured combatants of Ireland's Liberation struggle are at present and have since March 1976 been engaged in a long and torturous struggle against a criminalisation policy implemented by our British oppressors with a view to Depoliticising our war and it is in regard to this that I write you this urgent appeal. The above mentioned policy since its introduction has been totally opposed by we the R.P.O.Ws. We simply refused to comply with the prison rules and wouldn't don their criminal uniform. Foil this resistance the men in H Block and our women comrades in Armagh prison have been subjected to a barbaric campaign of torture and degradation. They locked us naked, 24 hours a day, brutalised and degraded us in every form and fashion. By April of 1978 we had to escalate our resistance into a "No wash - No clean out" form of protest, designed to highlight our plight. But after a further 2¹/₂ torturous years we found ourselves still faced with the same vindictive and intransigent attitude from our captors and so on October 27th last 10 of our number three women included, embarked on a H/S. This lasted 53 days and ended only when the British in the face of a massive outcry, capitulated and came to us with a strong personal commitment to ending this terrible state of affairs. They presented a 30 page document and this coupled with certain stated elaborations contained the basis for a just and principled settlement. We in goodwill ended our H/S and to show further flexibility and in an effort to create a climate suitable for the British, we began to phase out our "no wash" protest, but in a series of meetings between our representative and top prison officials, it became clear that the British were effecting a total about face. They no doubt believed that with the political pressure defused, that they could succeed with their treacherous intentions. But we immediately resumed our "No wash" protest and began preparations for a new hunger strike. This is due to commence on March 1st and could prove to be fatal unless world wide support is rallied to our cause so I appeal to you our comrades to come to our aid and don't flag in your efforts until victory is ours.

Yours in Hope and Confidence.

FRANK HUGHES



TO: THE E.T.A., BASQUE COUNTRY - 9.2.81

Comrades and Brothers in the Common of Liberty Greetings! From within the subhuman confines of the H Blocks, Long Kesh, I, one of 500 protesting prisoners writes to you, our Comrades and Co. soldiers imploring your assistance with our up and coming Hunger Strike which will commence on March 1st.

Before I continue I would like to give you a brief but basic rundown on the history of our Blanket Protest. For 4 years now, captured IRA combatants have been incarcerated 24 hours a day in cells where they lie naked and are fully deprived of all mental and physical outlet whatsoever - apart from all that, we are protesting prisoners have been subjected to an incessant campaign of torture, deprivation and humiliation. All this is taking place as a result of a 3 point policy first introduced by the overlords in the British Government in March 1976, Mormalisation and Localisation. The Criminalisation plan was doomed to failure from the very start. It was implemented so as to depoliticise our overall war of liberation and to label all captured combatants as "Criminals" but we the prisoners on protest have, through a burning spirit of resistance point blankly refused to accept such a tag or conform for the regime which we are fighting to overthrow.

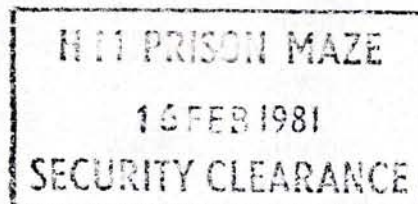
More than 2½ years ago we were forced to stage a "No Wash", "No Clean Out" form of protest, so as to highlight our dire plight, but as time went by it became increasingly clear to us that the British Government and their diehard officials in the NIO were becoming more and more intransigent and inflexible, so in October of last year after having exhausted every available method endeavouring to bring this Barbaric state of affairs to an end we were forced to embark on H/S so as to secure our first and rightful demand to Political Recognition. After 53 agonising days of H/S by 10 of my comrades, the Brits Government were through a tremendous amount of World wide support, Political pressure and demonstrating on our behalf compelled to capitulate with an eleventh hour commitment to ending this repugnant situation by a phasing in process which they termed a "step by step" approach. They produced a 30 page document which along with certain stated elaborations contained the basis for a just and principled settlement. But now 6 weeks later and no further on, it has become infuriatingly clear to all on protest that the "step by step" approach was but a play by the Brits to release the evergrowing amount of pressure which had been brought to bear on them as a result of our protest.

So, once more, we the RSPOW have through a total lack of alternatives been forced to undertake this repugnant prospect of H/S which as I have said "Will take place on March 1st."

Therefore Comrades, I now implore you not to desist in giving us your support during our next H/S, which if need be will be to the death. If the Brit. Govt. are not brought to yield and brought to yield they will, so long as we receive the necessary support which will see this protest brought to a well deserved victorious and conclusive end.

Yours in Comradley Hope and Confidence.

RAYMOND MCCREESH R.S.P.O.W.
H BLOCK 5 LONG KESH
CONCENTRATION CAMP



TO: THE MEMBERS OF ALL IRISH TRADES UNIONS

Comrades and co-workers in the common cause of the men of no property. I realise that this letter coming as it does from within the H Blocks of Long Kesh, shall receive a mixed welcome from amongst you. I also realise that there are those who on learning of this letters origin shall simply close their ears and minds. To those I say stop for one moment and place your personal views to one side because what I am about to say can and most likely will effect your future - H Blocks and Armagh, the words are common place now, everyone has heard of the torture, deprivation and degradation suffered herein. Some believe that as the NIO says the entice thing is a self inflicted inhumanity done to achieve a propaganda victory for the I.R.A. To those I say, be serious even the NIO don't believe that. They know the true facts which are behind the present crisis. It is a crisis which owes its total existance to the British Govt's policy of criminalisation designed to depoliticise the struggle in the North and the fact remains that like or dislike, admire or hate the I.R.A. and its methods, the struggle is politically motivated. It's aim stands clear as the "establishment of a 32 county Democratic Socialist Republic - the criminalisation policy has in itself already failed because due to the horrific brutalities inflicted in these prisons, world wide attention has been focused for some time now on Irish affairs and all have been able to see the true nature of the conflict - but the British continue to pump the same old hypocritical line", we have no special prisoners in the north and shan't cater for any". Ask any victim of Castlereagh Diplock, H Block or Armagh if they agree with that! - Crisis, very big crisis was narrowly avoided on December 18th last, when the British under massive political pressure came to us (to the Hunger Strikers and the Protest O/C) with a strong committment to ending this terrible situation. Our goodwill and flexibility in ending our H/S and attempting to end our No Wash Protest however were met by a very aggravating and underhand attempt by the British who have attempted to go totally back on their word, such an illogical action has now set the stage for insuitable crisis. We the RPOWs in a position of no choice must once more revert to using the final prison weapon of Hunger Strike. The thought of that must send many pangs of worry through many people. No one more than we the prisoners, ourselves see and accept the grave consequences that can and will come from such a course of action but we have done all in our power to overcome British inflexibility and have failed, so it now remains for us to use our last resort. Nothing shall see a successful conclusion here except massive public support which will for once and all smash British H Block hypocrisy.

Yours in hope.

FRANK HUGHES RPOW H BLOCKS

