



CONFIDENTIAL

① Dr. Egan  
② F  
J 6/10.



PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B & L) (MUFAX)

#### MAZE PRISON ESCAPE

I refer to your minute of 30 September asking for an updated brief on the escape.

I have nothing to add to my report of 28 September as to the description of the sequence of events leading up to the escape.

#### THE INQUIRY BY HM CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PRISONS

Sir James Hennessey and his team are pressing ahead with interviews of prison staff. The team worked through the week-end but cannot yet estimate when they might complete this part of the task. A first guess is about 4 weeks with a further 2/3 weeks to complete their report.

#### SEARCHES OF H7 AND RECOVERY OF DOCUMENTS

4 documents relating to the escape were found in a follow-up search of H7. Typed copies of the manuscript originals are annexed.

These documents contain instructions to both prison staff and prisoners for use during the escape as well as details of the escape plan itself.

#### PRISON OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (POA) REACTION AT MAZE

The POA at Maze have returned to normal working today after a period of refusing to allow prisoners out of their cells for association. They have also sent the Governor a list of 24 demands (annexed) to which they plan to add others. These "demands" are presently being examined but it is clear immediately that implementation would require a substantial addition to staff numbers and others are likely to be impractical.

A similar though not identical list of demands has been received from the POA at HMP Magilligan with the threat of unspecified

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

2

industrial action if the demands are not met immediately.

At Maze additional searches of the prison are being carried out and the Governor in the meantime has set up a special standby force of 1 Principal Officer, 1 Senior Officer and 20 Officers.

PRISON OFFICERS INJURED IN THE ESCAPE

Of the 6 Prison Officers who required hospital treatment 4 have now been discharged. The 2 still in hospital suffered gunshot wounds but are expected to recover.

PRISONERS STILL AT LARGE

19 of the 38 prisoners who escaped on 25 September remain at large.

*Brian Palmer*

B D PALMER

3 October 1983

cc PS/Mr Scott (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 Norris M  
Mr Doyne-Ditmas  
Mr Edis  
Mr Reeve  
Mr Boys Smith M  
Mr Wood M  
Mr Jackson  
Mr Kerr  
Miss Simmons  
Mr Bell  
Mr Ginn

CONFIDENTIAL

①  
CONFIDENTIAL

Clear up M/O, Store, Toilets, Move Extra Man from Control, Get Keys,  
Let BIC In, Open Grilles.

Assessment - who is shot, hurt, stabbed, heart  
(Do I need shout or not? for M/O)

Are all screws floored

Chinky and Joe due out - get tanks short and takes my own.

Lads move screws to 26.

Then out comes Goose + Dennis for Mess

Skeet for P/O and Control (Blind/F - Mind Ears)

Marcus Takes up position on front door - Chisel

Seamus + Seamus take up position at Bins on  
getting Bic's short - Seamus come up for

Lorry to pose.

Billy Gormley - Handle Bags - Runner

Paul Beag - Tel Nos to me P/O Log, Personal Files  
+ Whites of Books. Report back to me. Do Desk +  
lift anything of importance.

Ready to Move from 26 to Classroom? Go

Ahead - A - C - B - D

Then Mess go to C - D Classroom - When  
directed ( Hush - Read's Siment).

RAB/SKEET/DENNIS Hi-jack Cars of Bob O, Hara,  
Eddie, Billy Law

My Moustache/Uniform etc.

Lorry Arrives, Drive - Me + Jerry

Everyone goes in a stance to intimidate

Bic arrests Orderly

Me and Gerry brief and take Driver

Show him route etc. - See Notes Bob

Bic + Marcus the door, tied firmly, tying on clutch, string coming from  
under seat - Bogus Grenade.

Bob + Bic question Fat Harry and

Bob - who scares into it, who would  
co-operate? Want Playing Cards?

Would you need to go out.

CONFIDENTIAL

TO ALL P.O.Ws. CHOSEN BY CAMP STAFF TO GO ON ESCAPE

A Chaira

Very few of you are aware of what is now taking place. This is due to security and the possible refusal of some of you to go on this escape.

Since it is the duty of all P.O.Ws to escape I now instruct you to go to the yard and board the food lorry.

Regardless of your feelings we are taking you with us we have no time for arguments.

Just do as instructed. Any refusals will be met with force.

Operational O.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

②

CONFIDENTIAL

3

CONFIDENTIAL

Dessie, Driver's Name and address and area. kid's name's etc. his location??

Tell him Kelly is insane but Storey controls him and thank fuck Storey is there he says we'll be alright and he has the authority "as everybody know's". He should tell driver to believe Storey as he's a well known Provo Leader and keep's his Word - He should impress upon driver to do as he's told and they'll both be alright, Storey will tell Kelly to stiff us both but like we said no screw is dumb so so he'll only "kill if he has to"! That mad cunt Kelly'll pull the pin on that granade in a flash - but He's 'afraid' off Storey so he'll do as he's told etc tec. Make him afraid but give him hope. Nudge Gerry if he see's driver hairdressing.

Driver arrives, Seamy comes up behind lorry to marcos and follow's driver into Block, he's arrested by me and Gerry, he will see x amount of weapons pointed at him, he will be under gunpoint from tense looking vol's, in weapon stance, he will be under control of Gerry who will arrest him, tie his hand's and hold his shoulder in firm grip and under my direction he takes him to mess, there he will see a hooded Vol. sitting in H.Q. with detailed "knowledge" maps on pinboard, also rounds on table and s/monts lying out. He will be seated and told by me his orderly is presently receiving same brief/well under same conditions) he'll be told this block is in IRA control and we are escaping and if we must we'll kill everybody who tries to stop, we want to harm no one and we won't unless forced to - when we will immediately and without question, either way we're leaving, it's up to him if he's executed or not, before I go any further I want to show you this, take him on a tour - (ask PO questions depending on SO or PO). Whom he's been also told are all alive because they conformed He will also live providing he does as he is to,d, if not, if he endangers my operation or my men - he forfeits his life without hesitation. This man will carry out my instruction to a letter, he is doing 30 years for the London bombing and gets his wrists slapped for bla you away so recognise your situation accept it, I'll be back.

Right the order is this, your driver's door is now secure, your foot will be tied to the clutch and a hand granade is affixed under your seat with a 5 sec. fuse (to safeguard Kelly and kill you). You will be under constant gun point throughout by GK - if he sees you trying to signal or ~~xxxx~~ risk operation he will pull pin and jump out banging the side for us to keep low, it is an anti personell granade and will kill him straight, he'll take full force of blast - we'll then try to move on in the confusion in 8 cars from Car Parks - show him maps etc. Tell him he will drive us (go through Auto. we know this and that etc), he doesn't leave cab at any stage, in . He acts normal at all gates, if he's questioned at any gates he's in van pool - as shown, drives to M/Gate when , tells

Tells the Barrier Screw he's faulty ignition so can't open door, and shows playing cards to screw and off he goes, he'll stop at lay by pointed out in Blaris Road, he'll be told at that stage and is left when we abandon lorry unharmed of course - he will be executed during the op. if he doesn't adhere to his orders or try to put "my men's lives at risk" he'll be shot and blown up - the gun is to kill him - the bomb to create a situation to escape.

CONFIDENTIAL

(4)

CONFIDENTIAL

TO ALL PRISON STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BY REPUBLICAN P.O.Ws.  
ON SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 1983.

What has took place here today was a carefully planned exercise  
to secure the release of a substantial number of P.O.Ws.

The Block is now under our control. If anyone has been assaulted  
or injured it has been a result of his refusal to co-operate with  
us. It is not our intention to settle old scores, ill-treat  
nor degrade anyone regardless of your past. Though should anyone  
try to underestimate or wish to challenge our position, he or they  
will be severely dealt with. Anyone who refuses to comply with our  
instructions now or in the future will feel the wrath of the  
Republican Movement.

Should any members of the prison administration ill-treat, victimise or  
commit any acts of perjury against Republican P.O.Ws in any followup  
enquiries, judicial or otherwise, will forfeit their lives for what we  
will see as a further act of repression against the nationalist people.

To conclude, we give your our word as Republicans that none of you will  
come to any harm providing you co-operate fully with us. Anyone who refuses  
to do so will suffer the ultimate consequence death! Allow common  
sense to prevail, do not be used as cannon fodder by the prison administration,  
nor the faceless bureaucrats at Stormont and Whitehall.

CAMP STAFF REP. P.O.Ws.

CONFIDENTIAL

# Maze (Cellular) Prison.

P.O.A. Demands made on 30.9.83.

1. 25 Inmates mixed to all wings
2. Grille gates on ablutions entrance
3. Increased levels of staff on post
4. Alarms in the hall guard and Principal Officer's office
5. The Control Room door should be in the hall
6. Officer ~~in~~ Dining Hall to be moved to the classroom - observation through panel
7. Turnstile at the yard external gate
8. Removal of handicraft tools from the H Block
9. All medications through inner grille
10. Class Officer post to be Senior Officer grade
11. Wing Orderlies to be picked by wing staff
12. One hour's exercise daily - no association until Inquiry finished
13. Two officers at all times on the main gate of the Block
14. Hall guard not to be stood down at any time, ie early dinner
15. Staff - orange cards still being used as on day of escape
16. Tamper proof warrant card as RUC
17. All segment gates to be extended to facilitate search of vehicles
18. Immediate setting-up of a prison search team with trades
19. Prisoners to earn right to associated work - privilege instead of a right
20. Call-in squad to cover week-end absences to maintain manning levels
21. All civilian staff to be escorted at all times - clergy/civilian instructors/contractors
22. Control of movement at all times throughout the prison
23. All towers to be refurbished and manned 24 hours per day
24. Manageable level at sports field

*J. Sample*

Prison Operations & Security Division.

30 September 1983

c.c. Mr Palmer ✓  
Miss Simmons  
Mr Jackson  
Mr Ginn  
Mr Wilson (for file)