

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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**Title:** Government Information Services press announcement of changed arrangements for the funeral of Frank Stagg [member of Provisional Irish Republican Army] following his death by hunger strike at Wakefield Prison in the United Kingdom, which were made in the interests of State security, including the diverting to Shannon Airport of the plane carrying his remains

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This morning the plane carrying the remains of Frank Stagg from London to Dublin was diverted to Shannon Airport at the direction of the Government. Mrs. Bridie Stagg, widow and executrix of the deceased and the members of the family accompanying her were informed this morning of the Government's decision.

The Government have taken this action in the interests of the security of the State.

The Government are aware of the intention of subversives to exploit the situation for their own ends. They are also aware that such exploitation could be accompanied by systematic intimidation.

The Government are also aware that a display by subversives could serve as a pretext for violence against innocent citizens.

The Government respect the grief of those who genuinely mourn the late Frank Stagg. The Government are, however obliged to take the steps which they judge necessary and appropriate to limit as far as possible the dangers presented by the intended exploitation of this death for subversive purposes.

19 February, 1976.