

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2011/39/1819
Creation Date(s):	18 June 1981
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Access Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

CONFIDENTIAL

H-BLOCKS

Note:-

As directed by the Taoiseach, I phoned Sir Robert Armstrong to indicate the extent to which the H-Block situation was entering politics here, as a new element, and how fast developments were taking place.

I said that our reading was that the more the lid was kept on in the Maze the more the contagion was spreading elsewhere, both among the Catholic population in Northern Ireland and in this State. Suppression was leading nowhere. Contacts were being established in this country, which were leading to the build-up of systems and organisations which could be dangerous.

I said that there were some indications - nothing more - that the present could be a suitable time for some initiative to try to break the deadlock. There was a delicate triangle of prisoners, families, and outside interests and tensions were always present among the three groups.

Perhaps some formula, on the lines, insofar as presentation was concerned, but not substance, of what had been worked out before Christmas, in Dublin, might suit.

I said that the Taoiseach was so concerned with the issue that he would ask the Ambassador (or myself) to call to explain the situation more fully if this would help.

Sir Robert said that the call had been timely. The situation was being considered there. He is to contact me later.

18th June, 1981.