

FROM: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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Dear Charles,

MAGILLIGAN HUNGER STRIKE

This is to confirm that the ten prisoners at Magilligan prison who had "suspended" their hunger strike for the second time on 25 September (my letter of 27 September refers) said on the evening of Friday 5 October that the strike was over.

This followed a debate in the Northern Ireland Assembly on 3 October and a letter - which made no concessions and made clear that the Government would not make changes in prison arrangements under the duress of a hunger strike - which the Secretary of State sent to Party leaders earlier that day.

It is good that the strike has come to an end. No doubt both the Loyalist and the Republican paramilitaries will go on looking for opportunities to press for segregation, and the issue is likely to surface again at some stage. But it is useful that in this incident the authority of Government in the prisons has been maintained.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Sandiford

G K SANDIFORD

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Situation

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