

G. H. Q.
'/I/'59.

To: O/C Republican Prisoners,
Curragh Concentration Camp.

It is the opinion of the Army Council that the following facts should be brought to the notice of all Republican Prisoners at the Curragh:

1. The Campaign.

On every occasion that there has been a lull in operations during the present Campaign of Resistance, the cry has been raised by our enemies that the fight is over and that the Irish Republican Army is a spent force. That claim has been proved false many times and those who raised it have been discredited. In addition to its pledge contained in the 12th December statement to the people of occupied Ireland, the Army Council takes this opportunity of declaring its firm intention to pursue the Campaign through all its phases until the objective is achieved. Those who say otherwise are certainly not assisting the Cause of Freedom. In spite of everything that has been done to stop it, the Campaign goes on and will go on.

2. Hostile Propaganda.

The subtle propaganda against the Republican Prisoners has increased in intensity of late. It aims first at lessening the prisoners' morale, then stirring up suspicion and distrust in their midst and finally dividing them openly against each other. In one or two cases, notably that of the 'Irish Times' it has emerged from a whispering campaign into the open, and one untruth after another has been brazenly repeated. While all this is directed against the Republican Movement in general, it is aimed particularly at you, Irish Republican Prisoners, because it is hoped to strike through you at the entire Movement. During the past month, an attempt was made to put the Movement on the defensive in its propaganda campaign against the jailing of Republicans. Prisoners, their relatives and friends can combine efforts to defeat this new tactic by -

1. Disregarding sensational rumours and inspired falsehoods, and
2. Renewing the demand for the ending of jailings and concentration camps.

The position of the party politicians is weaker and the support of our people much stronger than most prisoners may realize.

3. A Military Force.

Let it be clearly understood that the Army Council will not tolerate any conduct in prison or outside of it which conflicts with the basic concepts of a military force. All Volunteers are reminded of their Declaration, without giving which they would not have been admitted to the Army, ".....to obey all orders and regulations issued to me by the Army Authority and by my superior officers". The Army, as its very name declares, is a military force organised on military lines with the aim of achieving its objective by force of arms. It is at present engaged in a Campaign of Resistance against British rule. This is the testing time and we must be ~~very~~ wary lest we play right into the hands of our enemies by drifting away from our position as an Army in spirit as well as in name.

4. Unity.

To emerge successfully from this generation's fight, we must have unity as well as discipline. Nothing less than our united efforts will suffice to achieve our common goal. The enemy will try ceaselessly to penetrate our solidarity, but we must defeat his every design and stand "shoulder to shoulder" in splendid and unbreakable unity behind the duly-elected Army Authority and its representatives, ~~xxxxxxx~~ the Unit O/Cs. We must do so regardless of the personnel that occupy such positions for the time being. Let us not confuse the office with the man - it is to the entire Army and to our country that we owe allegiance. We discharge that duty by serving as soldiers under our officers, whoever they may be. This holds good equally for a Unit on active service, a territorial unit in the 26

counties, and for a Unit of the Army in jail or prison-camp.

5. Objective.

All prisoners are most earnestly exhorted to keep our objective of a free Ireland and all that follows from it constantly before their minds. It is for this and for no lesser purpose that our comrades in English prisons, in Crumlin Road jail, Belfast, and on active service in the occupied area, are serving as soldiers. All are deeply conscious of the others' part, and will all united in unshakeable unity under the Army Control and with a clear view of our objective, the Army can move forward towards final victory.

On behalf of the Army Council,

P. Flanagan, Chief of Staff.

The foregoing is to be taken by the O/Cs of Prisoner Units as the broad outline to be followed in the administration and conduct of the Units concerned.