

The Batt. Staff and Vol's., 5th Batt, Magilligan Camp, extend warmest fraternal greetings to all their comrades at present incarcerated in British and Irish Concentration Camps, and especially to those brave young Men and Women who must endure in solitude the full savagery of British imperialism in the Cell-Blocks and punishment centers of Long Kesh, Crumlin Rd., and Armagh.

The comradeship which lessens the hardship in the Camps is denied these young Prisoners. But they are conscious of the bond of Republicanism which strengthens all our resolve, and their suffering is an expression of unselfish comradeship. They suffer for all of us, those who have been in prison and those who have yet to face the figors of British oppression.

Our knowledge of the daily torments these prisoners must face should inspire each and every one of us. Their faith in the Republican philosophy is secure. We must ensure that our loyalty and devotion to the Republican Movement remains equally secure. We must demand Political Status for all our Prisoners, not as a concession, but as a right.

It should be remembered that prior to disengagement in all her colonies, Britain encouraged this self-same policy of demoralisation. On the Streets, in the Prison Camps, Murder, Torture, and harassment have rapidly become the order of the day. It is clear that the British are at long last ready to surrender all influence. Economically and Militarily, they can no longer govern the 'Rebellious' North. Ireland is no longer seen as an area of easy opportunity, of guaranteed profit. The maintenance of this artificial Statelet has become too expensive, and the British establishment knows this, and has already begun preparations for eventual disengagement.

The prospect of British disengagement calls for the sternest discipline on our part. Differences will be magnified, proagandists will condemn the Republican Movement. Prisoners will be subject to ever increased harassment. We cannot compromise. Each new terror must be combated actively and immediately. The British may adamant that Political Status will disappear. The Republican Movement is equally adamant that Political Status will remain.

Our loyalty, our discipline, our faith in the Republican Movement will ensure our success. If we hold firm we can ~~never~~ never be defeated and we must have success for all ~~for~~ those Prisoners who sit naked alone, and brutalised in their lonely cells. Their suffering will not be condemed by all the pious hypocrites who will self righteously celebrate the coming of Christ this Christmas. The Christianity falls far short of that preached by their founder.

In conclusion, we send Christmas greetings to all members of the Republican Movement, the Vol's. of the Irish Republican Army, the members of Sinn Fein, and all the Welfare organisations who have helped us throughout the year, and we re-affirm our loyalty to the leadership of the Republican Movement.

This Christmas message was sent to all Republican P.O.W's from the Staff and Vol's of 5th Batt. Derry Brigade, Magilligan P.O.W. Camp. Christmas 1976.