

The Irish Republican Information Service.
44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland.

Fri. February 6th. '76.

Frank Stagg, on the 54th. day of hunger-strike yesterday, requested that the following statement be circularised to the press in order to clear up misunderstandings:

The leadership of the Republican movement have never asked me, or told me, to go on hunger-strike. They have, in fact, told me during this and other protests that they would support any decision I would take regards coming off hunger-strike.

"The Republican Movement leadership have given me every support. They have campaigned vigorously for my just demands. They have given generous financial support to the members of my family who have travelled to Wakefield, London and Europe in the campaign for my demands to be met.

"It grieves me very much that a member of my family who knows nothing of the conditions I have to endure, who never bothered to visit me during my three years in prison, who very rarely bothered even to write a letter, should decide to collaborate with my torturers and abandoned my life to the merciless hands of Roy Jenkins.

"The fascist Right-wing Government in Dublin have been given the weapon they need to take my life and I am sure they will use it.

"Let it be quite clear that my dispute is with Roy Jenkins and my jailers and not the Republican movement; only Roy Jenkins can grant my demands. My life is in his hands. Finally and once again, I thank all those courageous people who have done so much on my behalf."

The Statement ended.

Frank Stagg was seen today by members of his family. His physical condition is rapidly weakening but he is still amazingly lucid.

P. O Murchu,
Runai,
Irish Republican Information
Service. 6/2/'76.