

National H-Block/Armagh Committee

30 MOUNTJOY SQUARE
DUBLIN 1.

Tel: 747200

Press Statement

18 Nollaig 1980

DAY 53 of the HUNGER STRIKE

GOVERNMENT of PORTUGAL BACKS the HUNGER STRIKERS

The Portuguese Government and Opposition, the entire Parliament without abstentions, have unanimously supported the H-Block and Armagh prisoners. They state that the present situation is a serious offence against human dignity and are deeply concerned about the sub-human conditions suffered by the prisoners.

The Government of Portugal appeals to Great Britain to respect the human dignity of the prisoners and adds that these prisoners, to whom political status has been denied, are entitled to such status.

The Portuguese have condemned, in particular, the periods for which the prisoners have been locked in their cells and their denial of toilet facilities as a right.

In view of this support from a sovereign European Government, the National H-Block/Armagh Committee is immediately sending a delegation to Geneva to the International Red Cross, the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the International Commission of Jurists to plead for the rights of the prisoners and the granting of their five demands.

Bernadette McAliskey
P.R.O.
National H-Block/Armagh Committee

(The above very significant Press Statement was issued to the media by telephone on the 18th December, 1980. As far as we are aware, it has not appeared in any newspaper or on radio/television to date.)