

Statement from the V.P.P.

St. Clair Johnston Branch, on behalf of the
Ulster Volunteer Force, Long Kesh.

ONCE again we find that we must stand up and be counted as we have done in the past, when we rose up to meet the threat to our beloved country. Again we find ourselves under attack, but this time by the professional letter writers, rumour mongers, and sowers of the seeds of doubt, who unfortunately have succeeded with a limited degree of success in their efforts to plant these seeds of doubt amongst the Loyalist population. We have been branded as Godless Communists and accused of colluding and acting in collusion with the enemies of Ulster. We cannot be silent when we read and hear of how we have been branded as traitors and Communists.

It is difficult for us to put into words our deep feelings of disgust and dismay at these outrageous allegations which have been levelled at us. We, the imprisoned members of the Ulster Volunteer Force, when in freedom, took the oath of our forefathers, and solemnly swore true allegiance to our homeland and our people. We have adhered to that oath and in the process have won our freedom, and would not hesitate to do so again. We will continue, as in the past to combat Republicanism, and with greater vigor, Communism. Furthermore, we have no need for anyone to tell us who our enemies are. We would also stress that we embark on this protest quite willingly, and we are solidly behind our Camp Commander and his immediate subordinates. We are, as in freedom, a Military Organisation, and conduct all our activities in a disciplined manner.

We are at present engaged in a protest, under the excellent leadership of our Camp Commander in order to bring to an end the squalid conditions and the inhuman treatment, which incidentally we have endured since our arrival on the 10th December, 1972, in this Godforsaken place. If it is wrong for the Loyalist prisoners to endure such inhuman treatment, is it not equally wrong when the same conditions prevail in the Republican cages? We do not attempt, nor do we wish to speak on behalf of the Republican Prisoners, they are quite able to do this themselves.

The present unrest in Long Kesh, is due to the inadequate administration, facilities, lack of Prison Staff, and broken promises. We are attempting to bring to the attention of the Loyalist people that conditions within this camp are not what the Northern Ireland Office would have the people believe. Many anomalies exist, and would be too numerous for us to explain in detail. Some of our grievances are of a minor nature and could be dealt with within the confines of Long Kesh, such as, football and handicrafts for the Loyalist Prisoners, and the amount of spending money in the camp canteen, which has always been heavily subsidised upon, because of the ever present food shortage. Grievances of a more serious nature must be dealt with

at Government level, compassionate parole, visiting facilities, food and laundry. Certain directives were issued by the Northern Ireland Office concerning some of these grievances, but they have not been implemented by the Camp Authorities.

Are we expected to sit in apathy and despair in our dismal surroundings? We would be failing in our duty, not only to ourselves, but to our people, and to all that we hold dear if we allow ourselves to succumb to the wishes of the authorities.

All that we ask, in captivity, is for just and humane treatment, we expect nothing more, and want nothing less. We call upon the Loyalist people to help us obtain these aims.

For God and Ulster,

Yours faithfully,

R. Cardwell,

P.R.O.,

St. Clair Johnston Branch,
Volunteer Party, Compound 12, Long Kesh.

PEACE

Contributed by S.B. of Sandy Row

Everyone in Ulster wants Peace,
But all want it in their own way.
Why not receive the Lord Jesus?
And have His real Peace to-day,

Jesus said 'My Peace I gave you'
Not as the world giveth.
They give to-day, take to-morrow.
He giveth for as long as you liveth.

It's the Peace of God Ulster's need,
Let us now start, and sow good seed,
And spread the Gospel of Jesus
That is what we all now need.

Then when we get Peace in our heart
Only then we'll make a start.
Women together, men together, all together,
Every day in all kinds of weather.

Trust the Lord for Salvation to-day,
Walk the straight and narrow way.
Ulster needs God's Peace to-day,
Then Victory and Peace here to stay.

JESUS SAVES