

Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Séanna Walsh**
Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**
Date of interview: **07/07/2011**

Important

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it.

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Séanna Walsh Clip 01

Clip title:	Lessons from History
Duration:	00:01:45
Clip start point in full interview:	00:19:36
Clip end point in full interview:	00:21:19
Interview identifier:	038_S

Description: Séanna Walsh studied History with The Open University in the 1990s in the Republican Wings of the H Blocks (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison) and makes a connection between the language used in his OU History module about the Treaty of Versailles to the same language used in a speech by Peter Brook, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland about British interests in the North of Ireland.

Transcript:

Whenever Peter Brook was the British Secretary of State at the time, and I remembering him doing, I remember him making a speech and it must, he made a speech in regards to the British interests in the North of Ireland, whereby he talked about the British government has no selfish strategic blah blah blah. And I remember all the argument and discussion was going on about a comma placed in particular, and all that sort of pedantry and all that crazy stuff that people get into whenever they have nothing better to do with their time. But, a while after that, a while after he made the speech, I was studying with the OU, the Treaty of Versailles and going through, reading the Treaty of Versailles. And there it is; we have no strategic self, no strategic economic self-interest- exactly the same, and it was just word for word. It was clipped out of the Treaty of Versailles and inserted into Peter Brook's speech, and for me it taught me a lesson.