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By JOE ELLIS

Cook County Corrections Director Winston E. Moore said Wednesday that the only question left to ask about the Washington, D.C. jail revolt which erupted early yesterday, is "how long will D.C. authorities do nothing — or how long will it be before the prisoners do something?"

Describing the captive Washington Department of Corrections Director Kenneth L. Hardy as a personal friend of his, Moore said "I've been in that jail with him and he was very concerned with the prisoners. He's black and most of his guards are black."

Moore continued, "Those of us who

work in corrections institutions take this risk along with the job. We cannot exchange our lives for their freedom."

Hardy was captured when he went into a cellblock at approximately 4 a.m. Wednesday with a news reporter, to negotiate for the release of nine hostages already captured, seven of whom are guards.

The reporter, William Claiborne of the Washington Post, was allowed to leave to deliver the prisoners single demand — unconditional freedom.

Moore said "I personally don't believe in negotiating at gunpoint. He (Hardy) was given a demand he cannot negotiate -- freedom. I would have

gone in with an overpowering force as soon as they took the hostages, because the longer you wait, the more difficult it is to get them back."

He continued "You can see by their demand for freedom that they don't want to die. The D.C. authorities should have subdued them, even though they are reported to have two pistols — they certainly don't want to die.

"If they could do this and get their freedom," Moore declared, other prisons could wind up the same way. "Unless they change their demand, it's just a stand-off — that's one demand they can't be given."

Warden Richard English said of Hardy, "That's what he gets for trying to negotiate with a bunch of fools. It's going to happen to anyone who tries to negotiate with a group who doesn't have enough sense of values to negotiate.

"The last time negotiation over the release of hostages was tried," English said, referring to the Attica, N.Y. Prison uprising last year in which 43 lost their lives, "a bunch of them were killed."

English concluded, "the majority of normal human beings won't kill because someone won't give in to their wants."