

# CAMBRIDGE RAPIST

By POLLY HEPBURN

# SAYS: CALL ME JANET



COOK: "Hidden undies"

**JAILED Cambridge Rapist Peter Cook will know within days if he is to be allowed to have a sex-change operation.**

I can exclusively reveal that Cook, 55, who even signs his letters Janet, has recently had two intensive medical examinations at Wormwood Scrubs prison, London.

The results are now being studied by Home Secretary Leon Brittan. If he gives the go-ahead for the operation, it will mark an amazing U-turn by the authorities.

Attempts to move Cook from a top-security cell to a hospital wing have been kept under wraps.

He was examined by a specialist on June 7 and

given another full examination just a month ago.

One of the medical reports on Cook states: "During his imprisonment he has been observed to dress in female underwear."

"He appears to have been increasingly pre-occupied with becoming a woman and spends his time in female activities

such as needlework."

Cook received seven life sentences in 1975 for raping six women in an eight-month reign of terror.

When he was jailed, Lord Justice Melford Stevenson said: "In this case, life ought to mean life."

After he went to prison,

it was revealed that Cook was born with a rare genetic disorder that made him part man, part woman. Twenty years ago he had surgery to remove breasts.

In 1981 pictures of Cook wearing women's clothing were smuggled out of Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight.

Within a few years, Cook

grew his hair long, began wearing baby-doll pyjamas and called himself Janet.

It was thought at the time that Cook had hit on an elaborate act to win freedom.

His aim was seen to be transfer to a women's prison and eventually parole on the ground that he was no longer a threat to women.

## LIPSTICK

But in a bizarre new letter to a friend, signed "Janet" with a lipstick kiss, Cook writes: "My feelings are on the up and up to those of a female."

"I float around this dump in my hidden undies. Some think it is all very funny. I am very much hoping to get a move to a special hospital."

The man who once wore a black leather hood and threatened his victims with a knife now carries round a doll he made himself.

He says in his letter: "I have still got my J dolly; like in Parkhurst, J is with me."

"J has a lovely collection of clothes I have made for her, hand-sewn."

Cook was still married to his 41-year-old wife Margaret when he launched his vicious attacks.

In his letter he asks his friend: "Are you married and have you a good wife? If you do have a wife you must take care of her."

A Home Office spokesman confirmed that Cook had been seen by two outside doctors.

Lord Longford, controversial campaigner for long-term prisoners, said last night: "I put forward the idea of a sex-change for this man some years ago when he repeatedly expressed his ideas to me."

"I haven't seen him for some time but he seemed to want to become a woman."

Cambridgeshire's Assistant Chief Constable, Bernard Hotson who helped lead the hunt for Cook, said: "To say your information is interesting would be an understatement—it's mind-boggling."

And Lord Justice Melford Stevenson, now retired, declared: "If I did comment, it would be unprintable."