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FROM: JONATHAN MARGETTS  
Security Policy and Operations Division  
21 February 1997

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)  
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L)  
PS/Baroness Denton (DANI, DED&L)  
PS/PUS (B&L)  
PS/Sir David Fell  
Mr Loughran  
Mr Steele  
Mr Thomas  
Mr Bell  
Mr Leach  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Wood (B&L)  
Mr Maccabe  
Mr Perry  
Mr Canavan  
Mr Gamble, DED  
Mr Haire, DED

*summary  
under file*

*Mr Templeton  
Mr Wood  
Mr Barber  
to see for file  
DM  
24/2*

PS/Michael Ancram (B&L)

**MICHAEL ANCRAM'S MEETING WITH BUSINESS PEOPLE - ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS**

When Michael Ancram met a delegation of representative of small businesses on 24 October to discuss the boycotting of Protestant businesses, the Minister was given a video tape purporting to show IRA men taking part in a march to encourage boycotting.

2. The video tape was passed to SPOB for assessment and we in turn sought the RUC's view. They have now come back with the advice that the video was shot in March 1995 ie during the ceasefire and, of course, well before the start of the boycott. I attach a press article which appeared at the time about the Sinn Fein/IRA mock decommissioning parade in Pomeroy.

3. We were obviously being deliberately misled.

*Jonathan Margetts*  
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The attached video relates to a Sinn Fein organised protest in Pomeroy in March 1995. The armed men seen in the video were actors taking part in a play to highlight harassment by Security Forces.

The attached newspaper cutting explains the feelings of residents at the time.

This parade took place in March 1995 before the boycott on Protestant Businesses started.