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FROM: D J WATKINS
US CENT SEC

DATE: 2 JUNE 1993

CC PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Ledlie - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Murray
Mr Mackenzie
Mr Bell
Mr Steele - B
Mr McCusker - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Marsh - B
Mr Jardine

MA
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Mr McCusker
Noted. Thanks

check
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2 JUN 1993

MR HAMILTON
DOE

MA 3/6

PEACELINES

1. Thank you for your recent note about the commitment given by Mr Fell to the Secretary of State during the recent presentation on Housing in North Belfast by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, to examine housing and other issues along peacelines in North Belfast.
2. What we have in mind is that Central Secretariat would take the lead in bringing together a small group of officials to look at the social, economic and security implications of probably all the peacelines in Belfast. Inevitably we will have to discuss various issues with other agencies, but I thought our initial discussions should take place within the office. Mr Fell and I had in mind that Tony McCusker should chair a small group of officials to explore the issues involved and then take advice as necessary from other

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agencies. A report to PCC by late September/early October would be the objective.

3. Initially it might be helpful for you, John Steele, Dick Mackenzie and me to meet and agree the broad terms of reference for the work. I have asked my secretary to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

JK

(Signed DJW)

D J WATKINS

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c. Mr Mackenzie

MR WATKINS

HOUSING, PLANNING AND PEACELINES

1. Despite the somewhat garrulous contribution from Mr Blease, I thought that our presentation yesterday to the Secretary of State proved useful, in opening up some critical issues about North Belfast.
2. As I said in my introduction and conclusion, there are inter-related issues of housing, planning, security and politics, as well as wider implications for other social and economic policies and projects. It seems to me however that the kernel of the problem is that of "territorial delineation", best exemplified in the problems of peacelines. Even there, each peaceline has a different history and there are somewhat different circumstances in the adjacent communities which require specific consideration of each location. Could I suggest to you that it might be useful, in the first instance, if Central Secretariat could convene a meeting involving say John Steele, Dick Mackenzie and myself to consider how we might best proceed. At some stage we will need to have discussions with other agencies such as the Housing Executive, Police and Army but it might be useful to have an initial discussion within the office. It might even be useful if some of the background papers prepared for SECRASP on Peacelines were resurrected. We would not of course be using the SECRASP labels but could benefit from some of the earlier preliminary papers. I also know that Bill Morrison from the Belfast Planning Office has a very substantial knowledge of these issues and we might invite him along to our discussion.
3. That at least might be one way of taking forward the commitment given by Mr Fell to the Secretary of State at the end of the meeting.

NIGEL HAMILTON
18 May 1993

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