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2 Mrs ~~Byrne~~ ^{HSP} ^{0/7}
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UNDER
SEC 221/7-
E7 JUL 1998
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FROM: N P PERRY
SECURITY POLICY AND OPERATIONS DIVISION
7 JULY 1998

ASST DB 21/7
SEC - 8 JUL 1998
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cc: See Copy Distribution

~~Mr Brown~~

~~per telegrams~~

Note for the Record

DRUMCREE REVIEW MEETING: 7 JULY 1998 - 9.00 AM

1. The Secretary of State chaired a review meeting in Stormont House Conference Room at 9.00 am. Also present were Mr Ingram, Mr Murphy, Mr Steele, Mr Leach, Mr Lindsay, Ms McCoy, Supt Hunter, Lt Col Hodges and myself.
2. The situation was as follows:
 - (a) Operational. While most of the Province outside the Greater Belfast area had been relatively quiet overnight (with the exception of Ballymena) there had been serious disturbances in parts of Belfast. The availability of additional police resources meant that the security forces had not been as stretched as during the previous night, but the nature of some of the attacks was a matter of concern. Violence, though sometimes intense, was localised, being confined largely to areas such as Sandy Row, the Donegall and Shore Roads, and Carrickfergus. In all there had been 215 petrol bombings incidents and 129 attacks on security forces; 111 plastic baton rounds had been fired. The police came under gun attack on at least 4 occasions: there had been no casualties. There were attacks on police homes in Carrickfergus, Belfast and Derry (5 police families had had to be moved) and on 7 Catholic houses. Over 20 arrests for public order offences had been made, and others would follow. On the positive side there were no signs that general population was becoming

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involved in these disturbances (the Orange Order's protest demonstrations yesterday evening had passed off largely without incident) and overall the security forces remained firmly in control. Of 237 roads blocked overnight, all but 8 had been cleared by this morning. A Sainsbury's store in Belfast had had to close: it would be worth making contact with them and other big firms to ensure that they needed no further assistance at this point. [Action: PS/Mr Ingram.] The Secretary of State would pay a visit to the security forces on the ground later in the week.

- (b) Politics. Dr Paisley had been in touch seeking a meeting between the Orange Order and the Prime Minister, and the recall of the Assembly. David Trimble was in contact with the various people, which sent a positive signal even if at the moment there seemed little prospect of his efforts bearing fruit. Mr Murphy was due to see both Trimble and Mallon later this morning. Mr Ingram's dinner at Maryfield last night had provided an opportunity to reinforce to the Irish the importance of their continuing to take a supportive approach; this they were doing, evidenced by the statement they had issued in response to the Ormeau determination. David Ervine and Gary McMichael had both publicly condemned Sunday night's violence.
- (c) Ormeau Road. The Ormeau Road was now assuming central importance. The residents were seeking judicial review of the Parades Commission's determination, but this was most unlikely to be successful. A successful march would provide a major lift to the overall situation, and everything possible should be done to encourage Sinn Fein to co-operate in achieving this. Meetings between Mr Ingram and the LOCC and the Ballynafeigh lodge could have a part to play in achieving a benign outcome.
- (d) Media. Mr Ingram had given interviews on radio this morning condemning the overnight violence, and the Secretary of State had issued a press release. A generally low profile would be kept today, though opportunities would be taken to reinforce

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the message that engagement was continuing, and that dialogue was the only way to resolve the situation. The Fisher and Wright announcement had gone well.

[Signed: Nick Perry]

N P PERRY

SHA ☎ 27028

cc: PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - e
PS/Mr Ingram (B&L) - e
PS/Mr Murphy (B&L) - e
PS/PUS (B&L) - e
Mr Steele - e
Mr Jeffrey - e
Mr Leach - e
Mr Shannon - e
Mr Watkins - e
Mr Stephens - e
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