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CONCLUSIONS OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1969, AT STORMONT CASTLE

PRESENT: The Prime Minister
The Minister of Home Affairs
The Minister of Education
The Minister of Development
The G.O.C.
The Chief of Staff
The Deputy Inspector General
The County Inspector, Crime Special Branch
The Security Liaison Officer, Headquarters,
Northern Ireland Command
Mr. O. Wright
The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of
Home Affairs
The Legal Adviser, Ministry of Home Affairs
The Secretary to the Cabinet
Mr. I. Woods
Mr. J.L. Semple

1. MEASURES TO BE ANNOUNCED IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S BROADCAST

The G.O.C. gave details of the new measures which were to be announced by the Prime Minister on television.

- (i) A system of vehicle control was to be brought into force whereby no cars would be allowed to enter or leave a designated area in Belfast from 9 o'clock in the evening to 6 o'clock each morning. Control would be exercised through a series of barriers manned by the Army and the R.U.C. The precise area to be affected would be decided after consultation but it would broadly be the area between the Grosvenor and Crumlin Roads. The area would have to be designated by regulation and it was agreed that this should be made as flexible as possible so that the area affected could be altered easily if necessary.
- (ii) A peace line was to be established to separate physically the Falls and the Shankill communities. Initially this would take the form of a temporary barbed wire fence which would be manned by the Army and the Police. The actual line of fence would be decided in consultation with the Belfast Corporation. It was agreed that there should be no question of the peace line becoming permanent although it was acknowledged that the barriers might have to be strengthened in some locations.

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(iii) With the establishment of the peace line a start would be made on the removal of all barricades, beginning on the outskirts of the city and moving into the centre. This would be done by the R.U.C. in Protestant areas and by the Army in Catholic areas, although it was hoped that at least some of the barricades would be removed voluntarily. Where necessary military barriers would replace the barricades. The task would have to be handled tactfully; for example it would be most unfortunate if a barricade was to be erected again in Albert Street. No action should be taken at present against the barricades in Londonderry. It was agreed that in order to persuade residents to remove barricades voluntarily, approaches should be made to church leaders with a view to obtaining comment by them on the Prime Minister's broadcast. Mr. Wright agreed to approach Cardinal Conway.

2. CIVILIAN FORCE TO ASSIST THE SECURITY FORCES

It was agreed that since no Civil Defence personnel existed in any numbers it would not be possible or practical to mobilise any civilian force to help the military and the Police, but it was agreed that ward councillors and members of the Peace Committees might be able to assist in certain areas.

3. REINFORCEMENTS

The G.O.C. said that another Battalion would be arriving in Belfast at the end of the week. More R.U.C. were being made available by cutting down on stationary guard duty on certain key points in Belfast.

4. INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

It was agreed that, in spite of the security difficulties, the Ireland via Russia match should go ahead on the basis agreed earlier in the day involving a 5.30 p.m. start, and that the vehicular restriction should commence later on Wednesday on account of this. Consideration of the position in relation to the Ards - Roma match was postponed until the next meeting.

5. ACCOMMODATION FOR THE ARMY

The G.O.C. mentioned the unsatisfactory conditions in which his soldiers were living and agreed to approach the Government if and when it was necessary, to take up its offer to help in

this respect.

6. BAN ON PROCESSIONS:

The Minister of Home Affairs asked those present to give thought to the extension of the present ban on processions which would have to be considered in the near future. It was reported that plans were already being made for a march to commemorate the 5th October disturbances in Londonderry in 1968.

7. KEY POINTS

The Minister of Home Affairs said that it had become apparent through the Key Points Sub-Committee that some occupiers were being unco-operative in taking responsibility for the security of their premises. In England the initial burden of providing for the security of premises was borne by the occupier and consideration would be given to applying this principle more firmly in Northern Ireland.

8. NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at Stormont Castle on Thursday, 11th September, at 5.30 p.m.