

E.R.

CONFIDENTIAL

424/4

PC 254/4

PC/85/4/770/ES

PS/Mr Scott (B)

cc: PS/Secretary of State (B&L)
PS/Dr Boyson (B&L)
PS/Mr Scott (L)
PS/Mr Patten (B&L)
PS/Lord Lyell (B&L)
PS/PUS (B&L)
Mr Bloomfield ✓
Mr Parkes
Mr Stephens
Mr Buxton
Mr Chesterton
Mr Lyon
Mr Cowling



2. Mr Canill
3. SEC 11

1994 COMMONWEALTH GAMES: PROPOSED NORTHERN IRELAND WORKING PARTY

Having seen the minute by Mrs Tinman to PS/Secretary of State on this subject, I spoke to Mr Patterson expressing my concern, which I said I would commit to paper.

2. As you know, in the light of the recent threat to visiting sports teams made by INLA after the England/Ireland soccer international at Windsor Park last month, there is a certain degree of nervousness among the governing bodies of sports at both national and international level. If it were to become public knowledge that we were intending to set up a working group to examine the feasibility of staging the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Northern Ireland, there is just an outside possibility that this could be taken by INLA as a direct challenge. In that event there is a risk - albeit a slight one - that INLA may attempt to attack a visiting sports team in order to give substance to their threat and sabotage this long-term attempt to normalise Northern Ireland's sporting contacts with Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

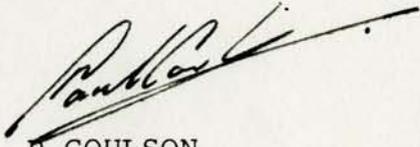
3. As I understand it there is little if any chance of such a working party being set up without it becoming public knowledge. In that event, if INLA did react, it would set Northern Ireland's sporting relationships with other countries back a long way and, in fact, may do irreparable harm to the public image of the Province. We would suggest that it may be as well to delay the appointment of this committee until at least the present unease

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within the sporting community has subsided.



F COULSON
Law and Order Division

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