



Mr Spence

NORTHERN IRELAND Information Service

13 October 1986

DEMOLITION OF FLATS TO GO AHEAD

Environment Minister Mr Richard Needham MP, has accepted the recommendations made by the Board of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive that its future strategy for dealing with the problems of the remaining Sectra blocks at the Divis Complex in Belfast and the two remaining blocks of Rossville Flats in Londonderry should be one of phased demolition.

The Minister said:- "I have considered carefully the change of policy which the Board of the Housing Executive has recommended following their comprehensive review of the condition of the remaining blocks of flats in the Divis Complex and their re-evaluation of the various ways in which a significant improvement of the living environment of the Complex could be achieved.

"The Executive has conducted a thorough examination of all the factors involved, which has included full consultation with statutory and other agencies who provide or fund services for the Complex or its residents. The conclusion reached by the Housing Executive as a result of this examination is that its future strategy for dealing with the problems of the Divis Complex should be one of phased demolition of the remaining Sectra blocks subject to periodic review.

"I have accepted this recommendation.

"The Housing Executive has pointed out that the implementation of the amended strategy could only take place over a lengthy period. This is dictated by the nature of the practical difficulties which must be solved. The Housing Executive has assured me that the Divis community will be consulted fully about all proposals for the implementation of the revised strategy.

"The Housing Executive has also recommended to me, again following a comprehensive examination of the costs and other relevant considerations, that the remaining two blocks of Rossville Flats should eventually be demolished and I have accepted this recommendation. As with Divis, demolition will be phased over a period of years and the normal consultative process will be followed."

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