

89158
9 JUN 1994
CIVIL SERVICE

cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L)-B
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L)-B
PS/Tim Smith (DED, DOE & L) - B
PS/Baroness Denton (DANI, DHSS & L) - B
PS/PUS (L&B)-B
~~PS/Mr Fell~~ - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Wood - B
Mr Daniell - B
Mr Perry - B
Mrs Collins - B
Mr Marsh - B
Mr Brooker - B
Mr Pope - B

408/6
PS 12
Mr W. G. G. G.
for file
D. G.

408/6
10 JUN 1961
Mr. W. G. Lewis
for free
Done
9/6

HELICOPTER CRASH 2 JUNE 1994

The Baroness Denton spoke last night in the House of Lords on the EPA Annual Continuance Order Debate. The Secretary of State and Ministers should be aware of the lines to take which have been provided to the Minister about the Chinook Helicopter crash on 2 June 1994.

2. I attach lines to take at Annex A and a list of those who were on board the Chinook Helicopter which crashed on the Mull of Kintyre at Annex B.

[signed]

R P LEMON
Ext: 27032

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LINES TO TAKE

GENERAL

- This was a tragic accident which has left 29 people dead.
- It is a tremendous loss first and foremost for the families of those who have lost their lives and our thoughts and sympathy should be with them.
- The passengers on board the helicopter comprised 10 senior members of the RUC and 9 Army staff officers of various ranks engaged on counter-terrorism activities, together with 6 civilian security specialists working in the NIO. The 4 Royal Air Force crew members also tragically died.
- This is a huge loss of extremely dedicated and outstanding people from the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the Army, the Royal Air Force and the Northern Ireland Office.

WHY WERE SO MANY IMPORTANT PEOPLE TRAVELLING TOGETHER IN ONE AIRCRAFT?

- This was not an unusual flight in RAF terms, in an aircraft which has a long-established reputation as a safe and secure means of transport, widely used in Northern Ireland.
- The flight path did not traverse hostile country, and the aircraft was en route from one secure base to another.
- The use of a single helicopter represented no departure from standard practice.

WHY ARE RAF CHINOOKS NOT FITTED WITH WEATHER RADARS, SUCH AS THE
ONES FITTED TO SEA KINGS?

- A weather radar was not considered essential for the Chinook's standard role of day and night operations, deploying troops and equipment, rapidly in weather suitable for safe flight.
- The radar fitted to Sea King would more accurately be described as a search and airborne interception radar, rather than a weather radar. The radar is not fitted to those Sea Kings which do not have a role fit requirement.
- The aircraft had recently undergone refurbishment and modernisation by Boeing.

WEATHER RADAR FOR CHINOOK NOW PLANNED?

- No current plans. We will examine the need for a weather radar in light of the outcome of the accident inquiry.

INQUIRIES

- There are three separate inquiries underway. These are by the AAIB (Air Accidents Investigation Branch) of the DTP, the Strathclyde Police and the RAF on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.
- We shall of course be considering carefully whether there are lessons to be learnt from this tragic accident.
- There is no evidence of sabotage.

SPECULATION ABOUT OUTCOME OF INQUIRIES

- Would not wish to speculate about the outcome of any one of the inquiries.

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EFFECT ON THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

- A blow to our efforts to combat terrorism but the operational effects will certainly be overcome: the work of these fine people will continue as they would have wished and indeed is continuing even now.

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ANNEX B

List of those who were on board the Chinook Helicopter which crashed on the Mull of Kintyre on 2 June 1994.

Royal Ulster Constabulary Officers

Assistant Chief Constable, Brian Fitzsimons
Detective Chief Superintendent Desmond Conroy
Detective Chief Superintendent Maurice Neilly
Detective Superintendent Phil Davidson
Detective Superintendent Bob Foster
Detective Superintendent Billy Gwilliam
Detective Superintendent Ian Phoenix
Detective Chief Inspector Denis Bunting
Detective Inspector Stephen Davidson
Detective Inspector Kevin Magee

Army

Col Christopher John Biles
Lt Col Richard Lawrence Gregory-Smith
Lt Col John Tobias
Lt Col George Victor Williams
Major Richard Allen
Major Christopher John Dockerty
Major Anthony Robert Hornby
Major Roy Pugh
Major Gary Paul Sparks

Royal Air Force

Flt Lt Richard David Cook
Flt Lt Jonathan Paul Tapper
Master Air Loadmaster (MALM) Graham William Forbes
Sgt Kevin Andrew Hardie

Northern Ireland Office Civil Servants

John Deverell CB
Stephen Rickard
Michael Maltby
John Haynes
Martin Dalton
Anne James

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