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P. Mason

Interrogation methods at Castlereagh

R.U.C. Station

Taoiseach,

The British Ambassador phoned at 4 p.m. to say that the Secretary of State would be making a statement, commencing at 4 p.m., in the Commons, today on the Amnesty Report on this subject. The Prime Minister was most anxious that you should be aware of what would be in this statement. The Ambassador said that he was giving me this information now, in confidence, essentially because what he had was a draft of what the Secretary of State would be saying and this draft might not necessarily coincide exactly with what would actually be said. The statement, in this draft, ran to about twelve pages.

Mr. Goulden of the Embassy then said that the gist of this statement was that the British Government were taking the Amnesty Report very seriously indeed. There were six points of action listed in the statement which Mr. Mason would be making -

- (1) an independent committee of inquiry, presided over by a senior retired judge would be appointed to enquire into police interrogation methods, court machinery etc.;
- (2) the consent of those who gave evidence to Amnesty would be sought to passing over their evidence to the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- (3) he would be asked specifically to report on his findings;
- (4) the Police Complaints Board would be asked to report specially, insofar as they were not undertaking this at present, whether there was any pattern of irregularity in the cases;
- (5) all of these reports would be published;
- (6) the Chief Constable would be asked to accelerate the review which he has started of whether technical aids would help to prevent abuse e.g. close-circuit television.

Mr. Goulden said that he would be conveying this message also to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

8th June, 1978.

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D.S. file.  
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