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FROM: S M POPE
Security Policy and Operations Division 1
16 December 1994

*1 - Mr Butler
2 - Mr Murphy*

- cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B,L&DFP)
- PS/Michael Ancram (B,L&DENI)
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Legge - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Daniell - B
- Mr Leach - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Wood (B&L) - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mrs Collins - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Marsh - B
- Mr Perry - B
- Mr Stephens - B
- Mr Lemon
- Mr Caine, Special Adviser - B
- Ch Supt Sillery, RUC HQ
- Civsec, HQNI

C

822/12
19 DEC 1994
CENT SEC

Mr [Signature] 21/12

- 1. Mr Steele [sgd JMS 16/12/94]
- 2. PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

SECRETARY OF STATE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE SECURITY FORCES

Each Christmas the Secretary of State sends a Christmas message to the Royal Ulster Constabulary and to the Armed Forces to thank them for the work during the year.

2. The attached draft for the Secretary of State's consideration focuses on the efforts of the security forces in 1994; pays tribute to those lost on duty; touches on political developments and concludes with mention of the families and a note of hope for the future.

3. If the Secretary of State is content, I would be grateful if he could sign two top copies on blue, crested paper for return to me by close of play on 20 December. I will then deliver them to RUC HQ and to HQNI for circulation.

MB/SPOB1/G7/5412

SGD

STEPHEN POPE
Ext 27030

MB/SPOB1/G7/5412

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

I send my best wishes to all men and women in the RUC and in the Armed Forces and their civilian support organisations, serving in Northern Ireland this Christmas. I want you to know of my gratitude for the job that you have done this year - a year which promises much for the future of Northern Ireland - and that you continue to do so very well.

I know that this gratitude is deeply felt by all in the Government, by the country as a whole and, particularly by the people of Northern Ireland itself who are now seeing, for the first time in many years, hope for the future. That hope has been made possible by the unstinting efforts of every member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, of the Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve, of the Regular Army and the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force and their civilian staffs who have, day in and day out, carried out their duty professionally and without complaint. 1994 has brought its own tragedies. The terrible crash on the Mull of Kintyre in June robbed Northern Ireland and the country as a whole of many fine public servants. But it is a credit to you all that that and other tragic losses did not deflect you from your duty and that the fight against terrorism was continued, undiminished.

Not least because of your commitment, we stand now at the threshold of a new beginning for Northern Ireland. Whatever the future brings, our commitment to the rule of law and to the triumph of democracy over terrorism is firm.

MB/SPOB1/G7/5412

So to each and everyone of you, I send my thanks. Your families, too, and in particular those who have lost loved ones during the year, are not forgotten at this time of celebration and remembrance. Good luck and good fortune in 1995 and may your efforts and sacrifice be rewarded by a fair and lasting settlement for all the people of Northern Ireland.

MB/SPOB1/G7/5412