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FROM: RUTH OSBORNE  
26 SEPTEMBER 1995

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NOTE FOR INFORMATION

- CC: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - B
- PS/SIR JOHN WHEELER (L&B) - B
- PS/PUS (L&B) - B
- PS/SIR DAVID FALL - B
- MR LEGGE - B
- MR THOMAS - B
- MR DANIELL - B
- MR STEELE - B
- MR MARSH - B
- MRS COLLINS - B
- DR POWER - B
- MRS MADDEN - B
- MR PERRY - B
- MR SMYTH
- MR FINNEGAN - B
- MR STERLING - B

1. Mr [Signature] 28/9

2. Mr M. A. [Signature] 28/9

*a [Signature]*

*hm [Signature] 28/9*

REVIEW OF POLICE STRUCTURES

A MEETING TOOK PLACE AT MARYFIELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 1995 TO BRIEF THE IRISH SIDE OF THE SECRETARIAT ON THE PROPOSED REVIEW OF POLICE STRUCTURES. THE BRITISH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY MR WILLIAMS, MRS COLLINS, MR SMYTH, MR STERLING, MR FINNEGAN, MRS OSBORNE AND MR ROGERS. THE IRISH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY MR DONOGHUE, MR MELLETT, MR MACINTYRE AND MR TIERNEY.

2. MR STERLING CONDUCTED A STANDARD VIDEO PRESENTATION OF THE CURRENT REVIEWS OF POLICE STRUCTURES WHICH, HE EXPLAINED, WAS WIDE-RANGING AND FUNDAMENTAL AND INCLUDED THE REVIEW OF POLICE POWERS AND POLICE COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS STRUCTURAL REFORM PROPOSALS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE AIM OF THE REFORM OF THE POLICE WAS TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE POLICE AND TO MAKE THE FORCE MORE EFFICIENT, ECONOMIC AND EFFECTIVE. EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION EXERCISES HAVE BEEN/ARE BEING CARRIED OUT AND ONE OF THESE - THE "POLICING IN THE COMMUNITY" EXERCISE PUBLISHED LAST YEAR - REVEALED A CONCENSUS FOR THE NEED FOR

REFORM AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE. IT ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE FOR THE FORCE TO BE OPERATIONALLY INDEPENDENT, AS WELL AS IMPARTIAL AND ACCOUNTABLE. THE PRESENTATION LASTED APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES.

3. THE IRISH SIDE LISTENED WITH INTEREST AND WERE BROADLY FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUES. IN CLARIFYING THAT THE REVIEWS WOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR A POLICE WHITE PAPER, MR DONOGHUE SAID THAT THE IRISH SIDE INTENDED PUTTING FORWARD COMMENTS ON THIS, AND NO DOUBT WOULD BE A RESPONSE TO MOST OF THE HEADINGS OUTLINED IN THE PRESENTATION. HE ENQUIRED ABOUT THE TIMESCALE FOR PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER AND OF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, BOTH FOR THE WHITE PAPER ITSELF AND DURING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. IN RESPONSE, MRS COLLINS SAID THAT COMMENTS ON THE WHITE PAPER WOULD NEED TO BE SUBMITTED BY EARLY NOVEMBER AT THE LATEST. IT WAS NOT KNOWN HOW LONG THE CONSULTATION PERIOD WOULD BE THEREAFTER. IT WAS AS YET UNCLEAR WHETHER THE REFORMS WOULD BE LEGISLATED BY WAY OF AN ORDER IN COUNCIL, DURING WHICH THE USUAL CONSULTATION PERIOD WOULD APPLY, OR BY THE LENGTHY PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE OF A BILL; AND MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF SPACE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAMME.

4. MR DONOGHUE THEN SOUGHT AN ASSURANCE THAT THE CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATION WOULD NOT PRE-EMPT DEVELOPMENTS IN ALL-PARTY TALKS; THE IRISH SIDE HAD DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING HOW A CONSENSUS ON ISSUES COULD BE REACHED IN THE ABSENCE OF THIS. MRS COLLINS SAID THAT THERE MAY BE SOME ISSUES RELATING TO THE QUESTION OF ETHOS WHICH IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO BE MADE OUTSIDE OF ALL-PARTY TALKS BUT EMPHASISED THAT THERE WAS MUCH THAT COULD BE DONE WHICH WOULD NOT PRE-EMPT THIS; THE RUC STRUCTURE WAS VERY MUCH OUT OF DATE AND COSTLY AND NEEDED TO BE RATIONALISED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

5. THE IRISH SIDE ALSO MADE ONE OR TWO QUERIES ABOUT THE STRUCTURE/HIERARCHY OF THOSE CONDUCTING THE "FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF POLICING" AND, DURING DISCUSSIONS ON THE REFORM OF THE POLICE COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES, THE AUTONOMY OF THE ICPC.

6. MR DONOGHUE ENDED THE MEETING BY THANKING MRS COLLINS AND COLLEAGUES FOR THE BRIEFING. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS AN AREA THE IRISH SIDE ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME IN THE PEACE PROCESS. THE IRISH SIDE WOULD REFLECT ON THE BRIEFING AND WOULD ENDEAVOUR TO PUT FORWARD COMMENTS ON THE WHITE PAPER WITHIN THE SET DEADLINE; HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT FURTHER DURING THE COURSE OF THE BILL (OR ORDER). HE REQUESTED THAT THE IRISH SIDE BE KEPT CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH WHAT WAS PROPOSED AS THIS COULD ASSIST IN ALLAYING ANY FEARS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITHIN THE NATIONALIST COMMUNITY. MRS COLLINS UNDERTOOK TO KEEP THE IRISH SIDE INFORMED.

(SIGNED)

RUTH OSBORNE  
26 SEPTEMBER 1995