

25 OCT 1994

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Ms Murphy

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FROM: PETER MAY
Political Affairs Division
4 October 1994

cc Mr Williams - B
Mr Stephens - B

MR MARSH - B
MR PERRY - B
MR TEMPLETON - B
MRS BROWN - B
DR POWER - B

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SIG: SECURITY POLICY - POINTS TO MAKE

At last week's SIG, it was agreed that Ministers might find it helpful to have a single page cribsheet on points to make covering security policy in the current ceasefire environment. I think SIG sees the cribsheet as superseding the "Themes to hurt ..." series and being complementary to the booklet on security policy but with a rather different (and necessarily short-term) emphasis. I envisage a primarily Northern Ireland use for the points to make, but am copying this to SIL in case they see the need for something similar tailored for the international audience.

2. I am very conscious that I lack expertise in drafting on this subject, but attach a cockshy to stimulate thought. Some statistics stating the number of joy riders apprehended this year etc might also help. The draft also lacks any comment on civil disobedience at present. I should be grateful for comments/revisions by Tuesday 11 October to enable me to circulate a paper for clearance by SIG on 19 October. Only after SIG has approved the draft, can it go forward to Ministers.

[Signed P May]

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no comment filed.

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but I have no
comment to offer.
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SECURITY POLICY IN A CEASEFIRE ENVIRONMENT

- The RUC, with the support of the Army, will continue its role of protecting the life, livelihood and property of all of the people of Northern Ireland. To the extent that one of the major contributors to lawlessness - indeed the major inhibitant to the exercise of the police service's duties - has ceased its activities that is a welcome development.
- The threat of terrorist action remains however. Neither group of loyalist paramilitaries nor the INLA has ceased its activities. The police service, with the assistance of the Army necessary, will continue to do its utmost to defeat terrorism from whatever quarter.
- Naturally if the PIRA ceasefire holds, there will be changes to the deployment and activity of the security forces over time. The security forces will address criminality in whatever for it takes.
- Equally the fight against what is sometimes misleadingly called ordinary decent crime will remain at the forefront. The RUC have [the highest] clear-up rate of any UK police force. That is a good platform upon which to build.
- Crime, whether it be against the person or against property, denigrates all of society. The RUC will do its duty to make our towns and cities safer places in which to live - but there is also a civic duty, which falls to us all, to report crimes fully and promptly and to ensure any information which might lead to the apprehension of those responsible is given to the authorities.
- There is no place for vigilantes. Barbaric acts such as punishment shootings or beatings are mediaeval in their

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mentality. All over the world there is a general acceptance that the due process of law is among the cornerstones of any democracy.

- Our message is a simple one: leave it to the professionals. Do not sign up to the hidden political agenda that says present or erstwhile gunmen should decide what the law is and then, worse still, how it should be enforced. Self-regulation among criminals is not the way forward: the legal process is.