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14 JUN 1996

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From: J McGimpsey
Security Policy and Operations Division
13 June 1996

~~Mr. Carson...~~

~~for file...~~

~~S. 18~~

~~6..~~

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Clarke

ASST/
SEC 110/b
17 JUN 1996
C.C.R.U.

PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B

PARADES: A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Handwritten notes:
1. 18/7
2. Mr Carson ✓
17-6
S. 18/6..
17/6

The Minister will recall the note of a meeting Mr Steele had with the Quakers, Dominic Bryan and Noel Jarman (Mr Myles' minute of 24 May refers).

2. This morning's media reports the publication of Bryan and Jarman's study on the parades issue. A copy will be forwarded as soon as possible. The report suggests, amongst other things, the setting up of a commission to advise on marches. The report addresses four main areas for study:-

- in principle everyone should have the right to parade as an expression of his or her cultural identity;
- the right to parade must be balanced by the rights of residents of an area through which the proposed parades might pass;
- those organising parades need to be held accountable and responsible for the totality of what takes place;

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- some methods need to be found in which arbitration and adjudication over disputes can take place.

3. In the event of media enquiry I have prepared lines to take which acknowledge that an Independent Commission has been suggested but reflecting the internal Working Group's views that many practical drawbacks remain.

[signed]

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POINTS TO TAKE

- I welcome the publication of the study by Neil Jarman and Dominic Bryan, any investigation into the issue of controversial parades is to be encouraged.

- The Government remains convinced that the key to the solution is proper dialogue between both sides, that is the parade organisers and those who live in the areas through which marches pass. The issue of an Independent Commission deserves, and has been receiving, serious consideration, but there are practical drawbacks associated with this approach.

- The decision on the routing of parades remain firmly with the RUC whose duty is to maintain public order and safety. The Government very much hopes that all future parades take place without any further disturbance.