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7 July 1997

To: Secretary

cc Mr Henderson (NITB)
Mr Briant ✓
Mr Smith (IDB) ✓
Mr Hardy (LEDU) ✓
Mr Beattie (Energy ✓
Division)
✓ by email)

- FAXED DW.

From: Ashley Ray

GROUP OF 7 MEETING: SITUATION REPORTS FROM DED COLLEAGUES

Purpose

1. The purpose of this note is to provide a brief report on the present situation following yesterday's disturbances. This report has been compiled from contact with Energy Division, IDB, LEDU and NITB colleagues.

Reports

Energy

2. NIE have reported no problems with electricity supply.
3. Oil companies: no delivery problems being reported.

IDB

4. See attached Appendix.

LEDU

5. LEDU have been in contact with their regional offices this morning. No company specific problems have been reported; the Newry office confirmed the general difficulties, which the media have well documented, in their area.

NITB

6. The disruption to rail and bus travel, particularly the Belfast-Dublin links, will add to negative perceptions. (It is understood that there are 2 burnt out trains between Portadown and Belfast and the line may not be reopened for a week.
7. " 2FM " , the RTE radio station, on its travel information bulletins, is advising tourists ,and lorry drivers, to avoid travelling to Northern Ireland and drawing particular attention to the problems in the Newry area.
8. At present no overseas coach tour operators have cancelled any planned tours.

Ashley Ray

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IDB REPORT

COLORITE

No production staff have reported for work at Poleglass factory. Office staff have reported in but they are considering closing at lunch time (and bringing work home). They will keep situation under review.

FANE VALLEY

Company has lost 2 lorries and 1 van in Newry and Armagh. Also reporting difficulties in getting milk collections through. Have asked if IDB can help in addressing the latter problem.

W D IRWIN

Company has lost 16 vans based at McCann's Bakery site in Newry. Company has moved to address loss by bringing in spare vans from Portadown and hiring additional vans.

EUROPA TOOL COMPANY

Considering closing the factory down today, several days ahead of their two week break scheduled to begin on Thursday evening. Company will try to negotiate an early return with employee representatives.

Poleglass roundabout had been blocked with burning vehicles and this is still the situation this morning. Roaming youths got into the Springbank estate last night, tying up the gateman and beating him with sticks, and apparently made an attempt to get into Europa's grounds but the company security man was able to keep the gates shut. There was a suggestion that the crowd was looking for cars to burn. (See Annex A for further details).

Due to nervousness in the area Europa did not operate a night shift last night. Though the day shift is largely there today, their mind is not on the job. They have real fears about the situation and about what will happen on their way to and from work.

ANNEX A

IDB ESTATES - SECURITY

Our security company, Lisburn Security Services (LSS), has advised by telephone this morning as follows:-

- no problems over the weekend at Ballygomartin Industrial Estate and Springvale Business Park
- At Springbank Industrial Estate (Poleglass) approximately 30/40 people entered the estate on Sunday afternoon.
- The LSS Guard at the main gate was attacked with sticks and tied up (the extent of his injuries are not known at this stage).
- Some vans were burnt at the premises of Glenwood Enterprises.
- A contractor working on the estate tried to remove his vehicles to safety but they were attacked and destroyed on the main road outside the estate.
- LSS apparently twice asked the RUC for assistance but that was not forthcoming.
- No reports of damage to the factories on the estate, including IDB's advance factory.
- LSS currently have guards in place and matters are now quiet.

We will receive a full written report from LSS in due course. I have no reports of problems at other IDB estates where we do not maintain a security presence.