

664/96

**CONFIDENTIAL**

INDEX  
SEC 239h  
-4 JUL 1997  
CENT SEC

**FROM: MISS R K HUSSAIN**  
Security Policy & Operations Division  
4 July 1997

**DESK IMMEDIATE**

- cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - O
- PS/Mr Ingram (DED, B&L) - O
- PS/Mr Murphy - O
- PS/PUS (B&L) - O
- PS/Sir David Fell - O
- Mr Thomas - O
- Mr Steele - O
- Mr Bell - O
- Mr Leach - O
- Mr Watkins - O
- Mr Stephens - O
- Mr Wood (B&L) - O
- Mr Maccabe - O
- Dr Smyth - O
- Mr Perry - O
- Mr Clarke - O
- Mr Margetts - O
- Mrs Todd - O
- Mr Myles - O
- Miss Dullaghan o/r - O

*PH - O. Order file*

ASST./  
SEC  
9417  
-7 JUL 1997  
C.C.R.U.

*in before 7.7*

*Mr. Cannon*  
*Overrun by events with a vengeance.*  
*Te*  
*7/7*

ARLENE NEILL - O  
Diary Secretary

**MEETING WITH THE INDEPENDENT LOYAL ORANGE INSTITUTION: MONDAY 7 JULY**

The Secretary of State is meeting with the Independent Loyal Orange Institution on Monday 7 July in Stormont Castle.

- 2. I attach briefing on main security issues and parades.

Signed

**RAFIA HUSSAIN**  
SHA Ext 27037

**CONFIDENTIAL**

20879

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Security Situation**

- PIRA mounted a gun attack on 2 soldiers in a van returning to Fort George and on 16 June 2 gunmen shot dead Constable Graham and Reserve Constable Johnston, in the back, at point-blank range, in broad daylight while they were on foot patrol as community policemen. On 26 June, PIRA was suspected of launching a rocket attack on a police land rover in North Belfast. The rocket missed its target, but hit the wall of a primary school.
  
- This Government will not give way to violence or threats. All those involved in these mindless acts must stop immediately and allow the multi-party talks to resume against a background of peace and reconciliation.
  
- The RUC and Army remain on high alert to deal with terrorism, from whatever source. I am greatly encouraged by the speed of the arrests following sectarian violence and the strenuous efforts made to deter and detect terrorism. The security forces will continue to take whatever steps are necessary to protect lives. In this they have this Government's full support.

**Provisional IRA ceasefire**

- The Provisional IRA know they must immediately call an unequivocal ceasefire, demonstrated in word and deed. No one can combine terrorism and democracy and if Sinn Fein wish to be involved in talks about the future of Northern Ireland the PIRA campaign must stop, for good.

**Loyalist ceasefire**

- Loyalist ceasefire very fragile but still formally in place. We encourage them to maintain their discipline.

**CONFIDENTIAL**



## CONFIDENTIAL

### Punishment Attacks

- Clearly this type of brutal vigilante activity is inhuman and should be rejected by civilised societies. There is no excuse for these attacks which cause untold damage, and sometimes death. The RUC remains the only legitimate law-enforcement agency in Northern Ireland.

### Parades

- All parades so far this year have passed without major incident, despite fears of trouble in some traditional flashpoint areas. The RUC have re-routed parades in the Ormeau Road, Belfast, most recently in Dunloy, and in towns around Northern Ireland but there continue to be tensions in Dunloy, Dromore, Ormeau Road and of course Portadown, where fears of 'Drumcree III' are high. The Secretary of State has been meeting representatives of all sides to listen to their views and concerns. She will continue to promote dialogue in these issues.
- The Government firmly believes that, in a democracy, the right of any group of people to demonstrate and to express their views publicly is fundamental and must be protected by law. Legislation governing parades is laid down in the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and, provided that serious public disorder, damage to property, disruption to the life of the community or intimidation of others is not anticipated to result, a parade in Northern Ireland, just as elsewhere in the United Kingdom, is lawful. In the same way, people have a right to peaceful protest.
- Unfortunately there are people intent on violent confrontation and disorder and some of the scenes witnessed are the deliberate work of people clearly wishing to cause disruption at peaceful demonstrations. Everyone who believes in peaceful and democratic methods utterly condemns those

CONFIDENTIAL

## CONFIDENTIAL

responsible and this Government fully supports the RUC in their efforts to maintain law and order.

- Under the current legislation, the police are not empowered to take decisions on whether to allow parades to take place. Legislation does, however, allow the RUC to place conditions on a parade and order its re-routing, on grounds of public order implications. In reaching their decisions on the routing of particular parades the police priority must be the maintenance of public order and safety and they look at each case on its individual merits before deciding on the operational needs. In 1995 the RUC were responsible for policing 3500 parades and it is a tribute to their handling of these sensitive issues that the overwhelming majority (over 99%) passed off peacefully.

### Proximity Talks

- The Secretary of State was grateful to the representatives of the Orange Order and the Garvaghy Road Residents' Coalition for agreeing to attend the proximity talks on Friday. The discussions formed part of the Government's continuing effort to find a principled and honourable resolution to the difficult problem in Portadown. Although a resolution was not reached, there were a number of areas which the Secretary of State wants to consider further. She will do so and be in touch again with both sides this week. All must continue to play a part in the search for a reasonable local accommodation.

### Harryville

- The Parish Priest of the RC Church in Harryville announced that the Saturday Mass would be suspended until September. This is very sad. However, the Government welcomes any development in this long-running

CONFIDENTIAL



**CONFIDENTIAL**

solution which may help reduce tension and makes lives easier at a difficult time.

**LVF Threat**

- Utterly condemn the statement by the LVF that they will kill people in the Republic of Ireland if the parade planned to take place on 6 July in Drumcree is not allowed to go ahead. Threat posed by the LVF shows the scale of the tensions we face in Northern Ireland at this time. We have been working tirelessly to try to find a solution to the problems created by some parades and this statement by the LVF does not help. All should be trying to find peaceful resolutions to the difficulties.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

20879