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FROM: S J LEACH
APD(L)
11 JULY 1996

DESK IMMEDIATE

- cc: PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) -B
- PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) -B
- PS/PUS (B&L) -B
- PS/Sir D Fell -B
- Mr Thomas -B
- Mr Legge -B
- Mr Bell -B
- Mr Daniell -B
- Mr Ray -B
- Mr Steele -B
- Mr Watkins -B
- Mr Wood (B&L) -B
- Mr Hill -B
- Mr Lavery -B
- Mr Maccabe -B
- Mr Perry -B
- Mr Stephens -B
- Mr Wood, NIIS -B
- Ms Checksfield -B
- Ms Harrison -B
- Mr Whysall -B
- Mr McKervill -B
- Mr Clarke -B
- Ms Collins, Cabinet Office -B
- (via IPL) -B
- Mr Lamont, RID FCO -B

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

STATEMENT FOLLOWING GARVAGHY ROAD PARADE

The parade has now (1325 hours) passed through the Garvaghy Road without excessive disorder. I attach the final version of the statement approved by Michael Ancram. This is for issue after the Chief Constable has completed his press conference, which is scheduled for the next 30 minutes.

I also attach two supplementaries approved by Michael Ancram for possible use in the House this afternoon. (The first is based on a draft by Sir David Fell.)

(SIGNED)

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE, SIR PATRICK MAYHEW QC MP

The following statement was issued today by the Secretary of State, Sir Patrick Mayhew QC, MP:

"I entirely support the further operational decision which the Chief Constable has made, which I know was informed by a wide range of contacts and discussions, including the valuable contribution made by the four Church leaders.

It is self-evidently right for police decisions to take account of changing and developing circumstances.

The violence which has disfigured the Province has to stop.

The events of the last few days have exposed how divisive the issue of marches and street parades can be in our society. There is no simple and easy way to resolve this problem. But neither can there be any question of ignoring it. The Government agrees with the Church leaders that the long-term solution and the immediate problems cannot be separated, and for its part will be considering urgently over the next few days what steps need to be taken to avoid in future years the conflict and the dangers we have witnessed this month."

ENSIVE

Victory for Mob Rule?

Today's operational decision is not a victory for mob rule any more than last Saturday's decision was, as alleged, a victory for the IRA. The decision in both cases reflected the judgement of the Chief Constable as to what he, and the RUC, must do, on the balance of circumstances and risks, to uphold public order and protect life. As the Chief Constable said last Saturday, the question was finely balanced. The balance has clearly shifted, and the Chief Constable accordingly decided that the authorisation of a limited parade was best designed to protect life. As last Saturday, we stand fully behind the Chief Constable's decision.

McKenna lured to bogus meeting?

I understand that Archbishop Eames has said that he spoke to Mr McKenna and others this morning, and that as far as he knew there was no question of Mr McKenna being held incommunicado.