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The Government are deeply disturbed by recent developments which raise the most serious questions about collusion between members of the security forces and paramilitaries and must inevitably have implications for security policy and for confidence in the security forces in Northern Ireland.

The Government have consistently emphasised the need for confidence in the security forces in Northern Ireland as the only means for improving relations between the security forces and the general public. A particular focus of concern has been the role of the UDR. The Government's longstanding concern in this regard has been reinforced by the latest evidence of involvement of the members of that Regiment in the most reprehensible crimes.

As a reflection of their strong concern, the Government have indicated to the British Authorities that this week's meeting of the Anglo-Irish Conference should be devoted exclusively to the whole question of security policy and the behaviour of the security forces. At this meeting, the Government will be insisting on a full review of all these matters and their far-reaching implications, with particular reference tot the role of the UDR.