

SECRET

1972/Joint Sec/4

CONCLUSIONS OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY  
27 JANUARY 1972 IN STORMONT CASTLE AT 10.30 AM

PRESENT:           The Minister of State at the Ministry of Home Affairs  
                    (in the Chair)  
                    The Senior Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of  
                    Home Affairs  
                    The GOC  
                    The Chief Constable  
                    The Secretary to the Cabinet  
                    The Government Security Adviser  
                    The UK Representative

ALSO PRESENT:     The Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs  
                    The Secretary to the Police Authority  
                    Mr D Gilliland  
                    Mr B Cummings  
  
                    Mr T A Cromey

#### 1. SCHEDULE OF INCIDENTS AND SITUATION REPORT

The Chief Constable reported that the preponderance of terrorist activity during the past week had been in the border areas. From his point of view the most disturbing feature of the week's incidents was the stepping up of attacks on RUC personnel which was obviously intended to intimidate the men off the streets. Consideration was given to ways and means of sustaining the morale of the men eg more generous authority for the use of automatic weapons and protection for police homes. The former was under consideration by Home Office at the moment. The latter was a shifting problem and therefore difficult to deal with. At the suggestion of the Senior Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs the Chief Constable undertook to check on the situation in Londonderry in this respect. The Secretary to the Police Authority wondered if something couldn't be done to speed up delivery of 1,000 flak jackets which had been on order from America for some time. The GOC undertook to see if Ministry of Defence could bring influence to bear.

Newry was troublesome, due partly to the presence of a nest of IRA men in Dundalk. The GOC said that Army presence on the Dundalk/Newry road was being strengthened. Local business interests had expressed concern about lack of security in the town, and it was felt that the Local Security Committee might usefully discuss the position with the Local Committee of Businessmen.

#### 2. WEEK-END MARCHES

Security arrangements had gone according to plan -

Armagh:           March stopped at selected point. News media exaggerated the numbers (under 300).

Magilligan:       600/700 people. No trouble until marchers infringed Army territory and had to be repulsed.

SECRET



SECRET

Lurgan and )  
Newcastle:.) Effectively stopped. Necessary to use some CS gas.

Notwithstanding some provocative reporting which laid emphasis on whatever limited marching there was rather than on the fact that all the Marches had been effectively stopped there was general satisfaction with the security action and the Chairman congratulated Army and Police on successful operations.

### 3. BAN ON PROCESSIONS

The Senior Assistant Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs wondered if the terms of the ban on processions should be extended to embrace Magilligan Strand, but it was felt this would carry complicated enforcement difficulties. It was agreed also that the ban should be absolute and without exceptions.

### 4. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Proposed Marches on Saturday (Dungannon to Coalisland) and Sunday (in Londonderry) posed considerable problems. Tactics will be as for last week-end. The Marches will be stopped at points selected on tactical grounds.

It was agreed that SPA Regulation 38 should be used to prevent assembly in Dungannon Square. The Londonderry Marches presented more serious difficulties and security action will be primarily an Army operation. It is planned to stifle the Shantallow March at source but it would be pointless to attempt the same tactics in the Creggan area. The basic plan here will be to block all routes into William Street and stop the March there. The operation might well develop into rioting and even a shooting war. Depending on the amount of road transport into Londonderry for the occasion road blocks may be set up and vehicles searched. This would have useful delaying effect.

Prosecution for breaches of the ban on processions was disappointingly slow. The Minister of State at the Ministry of Home Affairs undertook to look into this.

### 5. TRANSPORT INFORMATION UNIT

The Committee noted with satisfaction progress in the setting up of this Unit as per Paper tabled. The Unit will operate from 31 January.

### 6. GENERAL

A PUBLICATION OF CITATIONS: The Committee accepted a recommendation submitted by the GOC that in the best interests of recipients citations for operational Honours and Awards in Northern Ireland to members of the Security Forces, including the Royal Navy, Regular Army, Royal Air Force, RUC, UDR and Civilians (as appropriate) should not be published. Recipients would of course receive copies of full citation.

The Secretary to the Cabinet pointed out that although citations were not published in the case of the normal New Year and Birthday Honours Awards to Police it was possible that some of those concerned could be connected in press comment with particular operations against the IRA. Steps had already been

SECRET



SECRET

taken to prevent publication of private addresses of police recipients but further precautions might now have to be considered.

B INTERMENT:

- i. Accommodation: The next 4 weeks until the 4 additional compounds at Long Kesh (capacity 350) are available (end of February) will be difficult. Present spare accommodation is 98.
- ii. Segregation: Not possible until the additional accommodation is available.
- iii. Staff Recruiting: Progressing satisfactorily. Contrary to press reports only 9 GB recruits had returned home.
- iv. Searching: Proposals for tightening up search procedure was being considered.

C INCREASE IN BOMBING: It wasn't clear whether the recent increase in bombing incidents indicated a fresh supply of gelignite or increasing use of agricultural explosives. The Chief Constable reported general intelligence about increased ASU cross-border activity and a supply of arms from the continent.

SECRET