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MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS ACTION TO COUNTER
INTIMIDATION OF CIVILIAN STAFF

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Present: Secretary of State
PUS

1. Mr Bloomfield 2 RT 7
Mr Innes
Mr Gilliland
Mr Ferneyhough
Mr Shannon
Mr Watkins
Mr Sonnenberg

Mr McAllister (IDB)
Mr Radcliffe (Police
Authority)
Mr Collins (PSA)
Colonel P Jones (HQNI)
Mr Beckett (DOE-NI)
Mr Brennan (DOE-NI)
Mr Ingram (DFP)
Mr McCormick (RUC)

1. This note summarises the meeting's review of the present position and records the agreed action.
2. Police buildings - see Annex.
3. Army buildings - 3 major contracts at a standstill, ie at Palace Barracks (new work, where the contractor has been allowed a "cooling-off" period) and Coleshill (in both these cases the contractor now seems willing to talk again), and at the helicopter dispersal site at Aldergrove (this is not an immediate problem). On maintenance and minor new works, small family business are still substituting for mainstay measured term contractors who are withdrawing, but the process is reducing the number of firms available.
4. Supplies - PSA and Police Authority are continuing to cope with problems associated with refuse collection (8 Councils are still not providing a service) using (eg) skips, incineration (on site) and compactors. HQNI had assisted with supplies of petrol to Limavady, Strabane and Londonderry and heating oil to 29 locations in the north and north west of the province. Milk and other catering

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supplies were continuing at acceptable levels, but HQNI reported that the use of alternative sources is reducing future flexibility.

5. Building materials - the concrete batching plant will be in operation at Ballykelly by the end of the week. It was agreed that PANI and DEO-NI would write immediately letting PSA know that supplies will be taken up, thereby utilising the available capacity. HQNI were still committing 60 men to the delivery, or the protection of vehicles delivery, building (and fuel) supplies.

6. Staff - Police Authority said that motor workshop staff at Maryfield needed reassurance if they were to continue working there [Mr Innes for advice please]. PSA reported that staff were being discouraged from putting in further requests for personal protection weapons, but had concluded (as had Police Authority) that there was no reason not to issue flak jackets (the Army were helping here). HQNI observed that blood donations for the transfusion service were continuing normally. DOE-NI said that about 50 architects and quantity surveyors were no longer going into the field. There had also been requests for financial "inducements", "stress" leave and block cover to meet "enhanced" premiums on personal life assurance policies. It was agreed that it was essential that departmental practices here should not diverge. In particular, it was noted that there was a risk that departments with NI interests and based in GB (eg Customs and Excise) would negotiate their own arrangements with (eg) HMT for the special NI situation without considering the implications for other departments in NI or the impact on other NI staff. It was further noted that departmental decisions could spill over into the private sector. It was agreed: (i) that PSA would immediately let their staff management division know NIO's concern that there should be close inter-departmental liaison, with NIO being given advance notice of intended approaches to HMT and MPO; and

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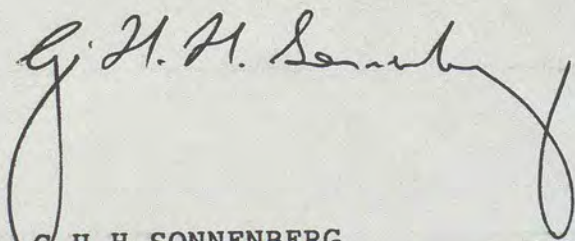
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(ii) that all departments represented at the meeting would let Mr Shannon (Belfast 63255 x 215) know immediately if special arrangements for staff were being sought or contemplated (Mr Shannon will report here direct to Mr Bloomfield). Mr Bloomfield is discussing personnel matters, including "inducement" pay and "enhanced" premiums, with DFP, and is also to consider whether an approach should be made to the BIA [advice on these matters as soon as possible please:PS/Mr Bloomfield to note].

It was agreed that there should be further meetings in the same format for the time being [date of next meeting to be arranged].



G H H SONNENBERG
Private Secretary

24 September 1986

Distribution : those present at the meeting,
and MUFAX DESKAY 12 00 LONDON
to PS/SOTS(L)
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ANNEX

POLICE BUILDINGS - SITUATION AT 22 SEPTEMBER 19861. Major Works

Work continues at 8 out of 11 sites.

Ongoing

Lisnasharragh

Larne

Andersonstown

Ballymena
Castlederg
Toomebridge
Cookstown
Ballinamallard

Stopped

Enniskillen (mortar proofing;
50% complete; hopeful work
will recommence soon)
Omagh (kitchen; 95% complete;
essential electrical work
outstanding)
Tennent Street (95% complete;
in effective use)

Work is ongoing at Ballinamallard and Works service continue negotiations with a contractor willing to finish the work at Enniskillen and Omagh. The design work at Newry has been completed; building should commence in October/November and be completed early next year; contractors seem willing to tender.

2. Minor Works (£20,000 or less)

The present position remains stable and work is progressing reasonably normally at 19 out of 24 sites.

Ongoing

Ballymoney
Coagh
Moy
Tandragee
Mountpottinger
Lurgan
Coleraine
Willowfield
Coalisland
Brooklyn
Newry (Downshire Road)
Garnerville
Draperstown
Dundrum
Omagh (Control Room)

Stopped

Dungannon
Kilkeel
Cullybackey
Keady
Warrenpoint

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Downpatrick
Portadown
Sprucefield
Castlewellan

Work has resumed at Downpatrick, Portadown, Sprucefield (Lisburn) and Castlewellan and a new contractor will be recommencing work at Warrenpoint on 24 September. Efforts are continuing to find alternative contractors for the 4 remaining locations; hopeful that work will recommence soon at 2 of these.

3. Maintenance

Difficulty is still being encountered in a number of areas, particularly in the west of the province but tenders have recently been received for all western areas except Dungannon. The majority are being recommended for acceptance. This should ease the problem considerably. All essential maintenance is being carried out.

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