

ASST/ SEC

24 JUN 1993

C.C.R.U.

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: D BROOKER
CPL DIVISION
15 JUNE 1993

In Conf. Sc. 28/6..

THC 200/6

Re FAIT, I assume that when the Ministerial meeting is organised, we will contribute to the briefing. AQ 28.6

- cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) -B
- PS/Mr Mates (L+B) -B
- Mr Ledlie -B
- Mr Thomas -B
- Mr Steele -B
- Mr Watkins -B
- Mr Bell -B
- Mr Marsh -B
- Mr Maccabe -B
- Mr Rickard -B
- Mr McCusker -B
- Mrs Evans, HODAB

Mr. Caesar.

Re contact Mr. Brooker

and arrange for SCS to be asked for a

contribution to the

briefing -

Mr Leach -B

ULSTER YOUNG MILITANTS

This is just to thank you for your helpful minute of 9 June offering constructive comments on the draft which I circulated on 7 June. I have taken all your points on board and the submission has now gone forward.

2. I have also written to the RUC asking for their formal view on proscription. A copy of my letter is coming to you in the box. Assuming that they are in favour we will then need to give careful thought to the timing of proscription. I dare say that this would be a useful if somewhat modest addition to the list of measures that the Government is taking to defeat terrorism, and since loyalist terrorists are so active at present there is every reason to put as much of a squeeze on them as possible. Nevertheless, the Unionists will primarily be looking for action against PIRA who have reeked substantial damage in the Province this year. Proscription of the UYM would, in itself, look like an inappropriate response to the broad span of terrorist activity - which suggests to me that it might need to be fitted in with any other initiatives you might have planned, to form part of a package. But these are issues to which we can return nearer the time.

(Signed)

D BROOKER

CONFIDENTIAL

CPLHILL/14544

1416
CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: D BROOKER
CPL DIVISION
15 JUNE 1993

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) -B
PS/Mr Mates (L) -B
Mr Ledlie -B
Mr Thomas -B
Mr Steele -B
Mr Bell -B
Mr Maccabe -B
Mr Leach, SPOB1 -B
Mr Rickard -B
Mr McCusker -B

PS/MR MATES

MINISTER'S CASE SOS/00316/93

FAMILIES AGAINST INTIMIDATION AND TERROR

THE PROSCRIPTION OF THE ULSTER YOUNG MILITANTS

The organisation Families Against Intimidation and Terror (FAIT) wrote to the Secretary of State on 15 April seeking the proscription of the Ulster Young Militants, which they described as the junior wing of the UDA, and indicating that the organisation would welcome the opportunity to discuss this or "other related matters" if possible.

2. I am sorry that, because we have been making enquiries about the background of the UYM, this advice has been delayed. We still have further enquiries to complete with the RUC but they need not further delay the reply.

3. It is apparent from information that was submitted recently to Ministers by [redacted] that there is a prima facie case for considering the proscription of the UYM. There is reliable, if fairly scant, information that it is involved in the recruitment and training of teenagers who may then go on to join the UDA; some members also appear to get involved in street violence, vigilantism

CONFIDENTIAL

CPLHILL/14417

1416
CONFIDENTIAL

and, possibly, punishment shootings. The RUC have advised that the UYM emerged in 1986/1987 in the Shankill Road area of Belfast, that its members are aged from mid-teens to early twenties and that they number, in total, some 100-150 people, mainly in Belfast and the surrounding areas. They come under the control of the UDA. Articles appeared in the Belfast Telegraph in April and in the Sunday Times in May purporting to give an account by one particular boy of his experiences in the UYM and they seem to provide a reasonably authoritative insight into the organisation's activities. Copies are attached.

4. On the face of it, given the above information, the organisation appears to fall within the statutory criteria for proscription, laid down in Section 28 of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1991. These state that the Secretary of State may proscribe "any organisation that appears to him to be concerned in terrorism or in promoting or encouraging it". The UYM also appear to meet the Department's stricter, working criteria for proscription, which we apply on top of the statutory criteria, and require that organisations should be proscribed only where they are "actively and primarily" engaged in terrorism. (Ministers have applied these administrative criteria in the past as a safeguard to ensure that organisations are proscribed only for their activities, not their political beliefs). Against this background we have written to the RUC for a formal assessment of the organisation's aims and activities with a view to putting a recommendation to Ministers that the organisation should be proscribed. We have asked them to confirm that they would regard the UYM as being "actively and primarily" engaged in terrorism, explain what effect proscription might have on the organisation and offer views on timing. I will submit further advice once we receive their reply.

5. In the meantime, there is no reason why the Minister should not send a response to FAIT. They have asked for a meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss the proscription of the UYM "or other related matters". The view of officials in Belfast is that a

CONFIDENTIAL

CPLHILL/14417

1416
CONFIDENTIAL

meeting with the Minister of State could be of considerable value; although some of those involved in FAIT have their idiosyncrasies, the organisation has done valuable work at the sharp end, not only at the humanitarian level in relocating threatened individuals and families, but also in PR terms in documenting, from an entirely independent grass-roots perspective, the real viciousness of the terrorists hold over sections of the community. Its views on the UYM and on other grass-roots issues would be worth hearing. It already has periodic meetings with senior officials and receives financial support from the CCRU (to the tune of some £29K per year). Provided that the meeting were private and we were satisfied as to the suitability of the representatives they would send, there is no reason why a meeting should not be informative for the Minister and provide encouragement to FAIT. The draft attached therefore invites FAIT to get in touch.

(Signed: David Brooker)

D BROOKER

These matters are therefore under review. Nevertheless, the Minister has asked me to say that he would be happy to have a private meeting with your organisation to hear your views at first hand. I should be grateful if you could contact me at this office to arrange a date and let me know who you would like to attend.

CPLHILL/14417
CPLHILL/14417

CONFIDENTIAL

1416

DRAFT LETTER FOR PS/MR MATES

Ms Nancy Gracey
Chairperson
Families Against Intimidation
and Terror
Imperial Buildings
72 High Street
Belfast

hcc PS/Secretary of State(L+B)
PS/Mr Mates(L+B)
Mr Ledlie
Mr Thomas
Mr Steele
Mr Bell
Mr Maccabe
Mr Leach
Mr Rickard
Mr McCusker

Thank you for your letter of 15 April to the Secretary of State in which you called for the proscription of the Ulster Young Militants. Your letter has been passed to the Minister of State, Mr Michael Mates MP, and I have been asked to reply. I am very sorry that you have not received a response before now.

The Minister understands your concerns about the Ulster Young Militants and shares your anxieties about the risks of young people being drawn into involvement with paramilitary organisations, of whatever description. As you may know, the Secretary of State has already been asked, in Parliament, whether he will proscribe the Ulster Young Militants. In response to a question last month from Mr Harry Barnes MP he explained that the question of whether certain organisations should be proscribed was kept under review. He also explained that the fact that an organisation was not proscribed did not confer immunity from prosecution in respect of substantive criminal acts which its members may commit.

These matters are therefore under review. Nevertheless, the Minister has asked me to say that he would be happy to have a private meeting with your organisation to hear your views at first hand. I should be grateful if you could contact me at this office to arrange a date and let me know who you would like to attend.

CPLHILL/14417