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**CONFIDENTIAL**

*Mr Hane ut  
X (§5) is interesting  
and encouraging.*

*Jul  
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FROM: CLIVE BARBOUR  
Security Policy & Operations Division 2  
16 September 1994

cc PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
PS/Mr Fell - B  
Mr Legge - B  
Mr Steele - B  
Mr Williams - B  
Mr Lyon - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Perry - B  
Mrs Collins - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mrs Brown - B  
Ms Siberry - B  
**Dr Power - B**  
Mr Daniell - B  
Mr Brooker - B  
Ms Johnston - B  
Mr Maitland - B  
Dr Rosborough - B  
Mr Clarke - B  
Mr Maye - B  
Mr Kyle - B  
Lt Col Moody, HQNI  
Mr Smith, CIVSEC  
Maj Williams, CCO, HQNI  
Mr Dalzell, Prin Civrep 39 Bde  
Mr Woods, Prin Civrep 3 Bde  
Mr Baird, Prin Civrep 8 Bde  
Mr Wilson, PANI

20193

Mr Marsh - B

COMMITTEE ON THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE COMMUNITY (CSFC): MINUTES  
OF MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 1994

I am attaching the minutes of the CSFC meeting that was held on 15 September 1994.

(Signed)

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SHA Ext 27019

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NOTE OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE  
COMMUNITY (CSFC) HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 1994 IN STORMONT HOUSE  
CONFERENCE ROOM

Those Present:

Mr Marsh (Chairman)  
Mr Smith (Civil Secretary, HQNI)  
Mr Wilson (PANI)  
Mr Woods (Prin Civrep 3 Bde)  
Mr Baird (Prin Civrep 8 Bde)  
Mr Dalzell (Prin Civrep 39 Bde)  
Ms Johnston (SPOB2)  
Mr Pope (SPOB1)  
Mr May (PAB)  
Ms Osborne (Anglo-Irish Secretariat)  
Mr Barbour (Secretary)

Apologies were received from:

Ms Brown

MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and Mr Wilson reported that the Police Authority had not yet managed to meet with the RUC to discuss the continuing increase in complaints against the Police. The Committee noted that it remained PANI's intention to press for a meeting.

CIVIL SECRETARY

2. Mr Smith reported that the level of non criminal complaints made against the security forces in August had risen to 34, which was a significant increase on the month before. There was no clear reason why this was the case: in the past high levels of complaints

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usually meant that a number of complaints had been received from one person, but this had evidently not happened on this occasion. Overall 166 non criminal complaints had been received for 1994 to date, compared to 155 for the same period in the previous year. It was noted, however, that although this was a rise, it was not by a very large percentage. It was also the case that some 70% of complainants were "of interest" to the security forces. This meant that those people were more likely to be stopped by the security forces and they were therefore afforded more opportunities, and were more likely, to make complaints.

3. It was noted that there appeared to be some evidence of a campaign to question the legality of swabbing by military personnel and that Sinn Fein was deliberately encouraging people to make complaints, thereby effecting the overall figures.

POLICE AUTHORITY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

4. Mr Wilson noted that the number of complaints received for June was 330 which was very high indeed. It was unfortunate that there was no way of telling from the statistics provided if the complaints were minor or not. He reiterated that the Police Authority hoped to speak with the RUC over the next few months about the figures but in the meantime, there was some speculation as to whether or not the Police Charter had had any influence in contributing to an increase in complaints. The Police Authority intended to contact other organisations who had similarly published charters in the recent past to see if they also had detected any significant increase in the number of complaints made against their organisations. With regard to the holding centres, the figures for the past 5-6 months had also been slightly higher than the corresponding period in the previous year.

5. Mr Wilson also informed the Committee that it hoped to introduce a form of equity monitoring based on the community affiliation of the complainant, similar to the scheme in Great Britain where a complainant's ethnic background was noted.

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ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT/POB/SPOB

6. Mr Marsh noted the report of complaints received through the Anglo-Irish Secretariat, Police Division and SPOB.

PRIN CIVREP 3 BDE

7. Mr Woods reported that Op KHEDIVE was progressing well although there had been some minor complaints of delays caused by the automatic traffic lights.

8. Mr Woods noted that South Armagh remained quiet although there was evidence that Sinn Fein had been trying to stir up matters by asking soldiers why they were patrolling the streets. His contacts with SDLP councillors had led him to believe that the moderate locals would not take part in such activity, but he went on to report that there was concern in the area about the forthcoming deployment of the Royal Marines. The father of Fergal Caraher (who had been killed by a member of the Regiment in a controversial shooting) had alleged that a Marine on the advance party had claimed to have killed his son. Concern had also been expressed by Councillor Maginn in Bessbrook whose name had appeared on "a list" on which he had been described as a Sinn Fein Councillor. Councillor Maginn was very worried by this and the RUC were investigating the matter, however it had been adduced that the list was some 4 years old as one person named on it had died around that time.

9. Mr Woods reported that meetings had taken place with Father Faul and Councillor Canning, and Cookstown Peace and Justice Group in East Tyrone. Everyone appeared content with the current situation and it was felt that there were clear improvements to be seen on the ground.

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PRIN CIVREP 8 BDE

10. Mr Baird explained that August had been a very active month with PIRA carrying out attacks in Londonderry, Tyrone and Fermanagh. The month had also seen Mrs O'Hagan being killed by loyalist terrorists. Pro-active visiting was continuing by the CIVREPS and he could report that the KOB Regiment were maintaining personal links with the Creggan Community Care Association; indeed a donation had been made by the Regiment to a local appeal sponsored by the group.

11. Mr Baird went on to report that a member of 5 Royal Irish had had a under car booby trap placed on his vehicle while he was attending Church and that agreement had now been reached to put up a fence in the Fountain Estate area of Londonderry. He also understood that refurbishment works at RUC Newtownbutler and at Wattlebridge and Kilturk PBs had been postponed for a month.

PRIN CIVREP 39 BDE

12. Mr Dalzell was pleased to report that the level of complaints remained small for the Belfast area, despite a high level of PIRA activity.

13. He did, however, highlight the worrying case raised by Major Brownlow, concerning a large number of pheasants and partridges on the Copeland Islands who rose into the air en masse before plunging into the sea to certain death after a low flying helicopter had disturbed their roosting. As a result it had been agreed that there should be no low flying over the islands during certain periods of the year.

THE PIRA CEASEFIRE

14. Mr Marsh invited the Committee to view its thoughts on the PIRA ceasefire and to look ahead to possible developments. He noted that it was evident that some sections of the community were

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concerned about continued patrolling by the security forces now that the ceasefire had been called. He believed that an orchestrated campaign against the security forces could commence, together with an increase in the efforts being made to open BCPs.

15. Mr Dalzell reported that the ceasefire had already led to a remarkable change in atmosphere in North and West Belfast. Although there were still occasional stone and bottle throwing by teenagers at the security forces, it was interesting to note that Sinn Fein were trying very hard to curb this behaviour and understood that members of that organisation "had spoken" to those involved. He was also aware that when the bomb had gone off outside Sinn Fein Headquarters, that some Sinn Fein councillors had carried out crowd control duties to allow the police and Army access to the scene. The wearing of berets had been largely welcomed by the nationalist community however soldiers were still being questioned why they were patrolling and there remained some fear of loyalist reprisals. Looking ahead, he feared that the arrival of 1 PARA in November could cause difficulties and, indeed, Sinn Fein could interpret their arrival as a deliberate plot on the part of HMG.

16. Mr Baird reported that the reaction to the ceasefire amongst nationalists had been overwhelmingly positive, but many unionists were sceptical, especially those in the Fermanagh border area where there were high levels of apprehension and isolation. In Fermanagh, the campaign to open cross border roads had been charged up by the ceasefire although there was some evidence to suggest that this had only been confined to the crossing points that were regularly opened by protesters. There was little concern for the unionist position and even moderate nationalists in the area felt that all cross border roads should be opened as quickly as possible. In Londonderry, however, there was a more relaxed viewpoint and nationalist opinion was content to see matters proceed on an incremental basis. To that extent the attempted opening of three long overgrown and forgotten cross border roads to the north of the city had received little or no support beyond Sinn Fein activists, and had been fairly described as such by the Derry Journal.

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17. Mr Woods also reported signs of confidence in the ceasefire amongst the nationalist community together with the hope that security force activity would gradually reduce. He was aware that Sinn Fein were introducing teams of "travelling vigilantes" to monitor what the Army was doing on the ground. He also reported that Sinn Fein intended to hold a 2-day demonstration touring crossing points and patrol bases along the border on 24 and 25 September. South Armagh was generally relaxed but local representatives wanted to see a reduction in patrolling and in helicopter activity but there was still some concern in the Hilltown/Castlewellan area about a possible loyalist backlash. There were fears of a repetition of the attack on a Catholic pub, especially with the approach of the GAA final. Loyalists on the other hand were uncertain, but those of moderate opinion had shown some signs of hope and accepted that there would have to be 'give and take'. Some unionists had not been at all impressed by Dr Paisley but those supporting the DUP had dismissed the whole ceasefire as "a sell out".

18. Mr Smith reported that CLF had indicated that he wished more weight to be given to community relations interests when balanced against operational requirements, and he believed that the use of helicopters would soon change with less low level flying involved. He also reported that some building work to security force bases had been put on hold for a month and that thought was now being given to further changes to operational matters such as the reduction in numbers of troops patrolling with the RUC. He also reported that the number of checks at patrol bases were decreasing.

19. Mr Wilson reported that although PANI were not directly involved, the Authority realised that it would have a role at some future stage especially with regard to the question of the RUC complement and the amount of overtime worked. It was also felt that the emphasis on building work might move to the refurbishment of police stations, but that was for the future.

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20. Mr Pope felt that although it was very much business as usual, it would be important for soldiers on the ground to be as professional as possible, as they were likely to be tackled more and more as to why they were continuing to patrol the streets. He felt that they had responded tremendously well so far.

21. Mr May reported that there was now a period of grace with nationalist feeling but that Sinn Fein would inevitably wish to move the process on much more quickly. He felt that Government would set the initiative by taking whatever action it could whilst reassuring unionists that no deal had been made with Sinn Fein. He also felt that there would inevitably be a realignment in nationalist politics and that there was every indication that Sinn Fein's vote might very well increase due to the publicity they were receiving and their renunciation of violence. He was aware that some members of the SDLP were acutely fearful of this occurring.

21. Mr Marsh thanked the Committee for their initial thoughts on a subject to which they would doubtless return in the future.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 20 October at 1100 hours.

CLIVE BARBOUR  
SHA Ext 27019

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