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CONCLUSIONS of Morning Meeting  
held at Stormont Castle on  
Tuesday 1 August 1972 at 10 00 am

PRESENT

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

2	Lord Windlesham	10	GCC
3	Mr Paul Channon MP (for Items 5-8)	11	Chief Constable
4	Sir William Nield	12	Mr K D McDowall
5	Sir David Holden	13	Mr T M Roberts
6	Sir Harold Black	14	Mr T C Platt
7	Mr P J Woodfield	15	Mr R M Whalley
8	Mr K P Bloomfield		
9	Mr J T A Howard-Drake		

Secretariat

16 Mr L S Duncan  
17 Mr S S Bampton

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1. SECURITY - GENERAL REVIEW

The GOC and Chief Constable reported a generally quiet night. The reception in most of the former Republican no-go areas had not been actively hostile although some resentment had been shown.

There were rumours that Provisional IRA leaders had gone over the Border and that arms had been hidden both in country areas in Northern Ireland and across the Border in Co Donegal.

The car bombs in Claudy, Co Londonderry, which had killed 6 people, were probably planted by the Provisional IRA which had then reacted to adverse publicity, as in the case of the Abercorn Restaurant explosion in Belfast, by disclaiming involvement.

2. SECURITY - POLICING IN LONDONDERRY

The Chief Constable reported that by agreement with the Brigade Commander mobile Police patrols had already commenced in the former no-go areas and foot patrols would begin as soon as possible. In the first day of operation the public had not made any use of the re-established police post at Bligh's Lane. It was intended to recall Chief Superintendent Lagan from leave and (on Lord Windlesham's suggestion) to consider the drafting in of other suitable officers for dealing with the newly accessible areas.

The Secretary of State hoped to encourage substantial local recruitment to the RUC Reserve and Sir William Nield pointed to the advantages of putting the onus on local leaders - who had constantly criticised the local Police - to encourage such recruitment.

3. SECURITY - ASSASSINATIONS

The Secretary of State expressed concern about the continued high rate of assassinations and in particular the labelling of some as "mystery killings" which seemed to suggest insoluble murders. He was assured that all murder cases were thoroughly investigated and that the offending expression did not originate in any Government Department and could be traced to the Press in the Republic. Mr McDowall reported on the arrangements for ensuring that the press staff in the British Embassy in Dublin were fully briefed as to happenings in Northern Ireland.

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4. SECURITY - UDA ACTIVITIES

The Secretary of State indicated that he wished it to be conveyed to the UDA that he could not tolerate any further military activity on their part. He recognised of course that a tough line would also have to be taken against such para-military activity as IRA funerals with military trappings. Advantage might be taken of Question Time in Parliament on the following day to denounce private armies of all sorts. The Secretary of State wished to have for use in Parliament statistics of arrests and arms finds in Protestant areas as he was being accused of using the Army solely against the Roman Catholic community.

5. SECURITY - LICENSED FIREARMS

The Secretary of State said that the high figure of licensed firearms was a political embarrassment and he wished to have

- (i) updated statistics for immediate use;
- (ii) a re-appraisal by JSC(0) of the policy for licensing both holders and dealers.

6. SECURITY - APPRENTICE BOYS' MARCH IN LONDONDERRY

The Secretary of State referred to the arrangements for **the forthcoming** Apprentice Boys' annual parade in Londonderry and anticipated that the organisers would now be able to argue that the Army occupation of the Bogside removed the previous difficulties about holding their march on the Walls of the City. He favoured in general the Chief Constable's idea of prohibiting any march on the Walls, restricting any parade within the old city to the local contingent and confining all other contingents to the Waterside area, but asked for the matter to be urgently examined.

7. SECURITY - REQUISITIONING OF PREMISES BY ARMY

Mr McDowall mentioned representations made to him through press channels about the requisitioning of schools and recreational facilities - in particular Casement Park - for Army use and complaining that such requisitioning bore almost exclusively on the Roman Catholic community. The GOC took the line that local bases had to be established where required for operational purposes and that it was inevitable that this should bear more heavily on that community.

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8. RESTORATION OF SERVICES IN LONDONDERRY

The Secretary of State and GOC commended the early re-introduction of essential civilian services in the former no-go areas but Lord Windlesham pointed out that

- (i) there was little point at the moment in putting buses on the road when they could not possibly adhere to a schedule because of the extensive security checks and
- (ii) in relation to local authority services, the Development Commission would be unable to function properly for a few days because they had been bombed out of their administrative offices.

L S DUNCAN  
1 August 1972

Distribution:

	Those present		
18	Mr David Howell MP	24	Mr N F Cairncross
19	Deputy Chief Constable	25	Mr W J Smith
20	Mr F F Steele	26	Mr R J Seaman
21	Mr J B McAllister	27	Mr R C Stevens
22	Mr R J S Wilson	28	Mr T C Hetherington, AG's Department, London
23	Miss Joan Owens		All NI Permanent Secretaries

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