

FROM: N P PERRY
Security Policy and Operations Division
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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

REVIEW MEETING: 12 JULY - 12.00 NOON



The Secretary of State held a short review meeting at noon in the Stormont House conference room. Mr Ingram, Mr Steele, Mr Watkins, Mr Leach, Mr Powell, Mr Kelly, Mr Lindsay, Ms McCoy, Ms Dodd, Supt Sillery and myself were present.

2. Mr Steele provided a brief update. The Ballymoney murders had changed the mood in the Province. The Chief Constable's call in media interviews for all concerned to pause and reflect had been echoed by David Trimble. William Bingham was delivering a sermon responding to the Ballymoney tragedy and would be following this up with a public statement calling for the Drumcree protest to be called off. The Orange Order protest at Hillsborough had ended, and there bunches of flowers had been left as a mark of respect. The Orange Order leadership were meeting, and the Chief Constable hoped for a positive public statement at around 2.00 pm. Trimble and Mallon were considering a joint demarche.

3. A short discussion followed on the line to take in, and tone of, the Secretary of State's press conference at 1230. The themes would be sympathy, recognition of the collective failure which this situation represented, and calls for people to step back.. Direct blame of the Orange leadership at this point might undermine the positive signs own emerging of a shift in their position.

Signed

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