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SECURE FAX

21 September, 1993

To: Belfast
For: S. Farrell

From: H. Q.
From: P. Hennessy

Attacks on SDLP Councillors

1. In the wake of last night's series of attacks on SDLP Councillors by Loyalist paramilitaries you are requested to seek from the other side an urgent assessment of these incidents, their views on the overall level of threat to SDLP representation, and the adequacy of the security arrangements in place. It would be particularly helpful to know whether there have been any changes in the British view from that conveyed in the Joint Secretary's minute of 29 July.
2. You will recall that we were told by SDLP sources that concerns about the recent package of measures were conveyed to Sir John Wheeler on 6 September (Log 1802; SF 1098 refers). We understood that he indicated a willingness to reconsider. What conclusions, if any, have been reached in this process? We would expect, for example, that the request by the wife of Johnathan Stephenson that reinforced glass be installed would be given immediate and positive consideration. Moreover, the geographical spread of last night's attacks suggests that it may be necessary to reconsider the list of "most vulnerable" areas where the recently announced security measures are to be provided.
3. For your own information we are in touch this morning with those whose homes were the targets of last night's attacks and will convey any further points as they come to attention.

4. We would be particularly interested in any evaluation of the technical characteristics of the devices used in these attacks.

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