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10 July 1996

To: HQ
For: C. O Floinn

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Cannell's A-1
Security Section*

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CB SEC 3
CC CB SEC*

No of pages including this one: 2

Mr. S. Hare D. Fearhead, Mr. P. Hickey, D. H.
From: Belfast
From: Joint Secretary

Subj: Current situation

Ref your message of today's date.

1. We have sought an overall assessment of the present situation from the other side. The latest situation reports are being forwarded separately. As of noon today, a generally quiet situation was reported (following last night's sporadic violence across the North). However, widespread disruption to traffic and damage to roads and property continues.
2. A general comment made by the British side, based on information available to them, is that the UDA are determined to hold back from involvement in the current disturbances while the UVF are distracted by internal squabbles (particularly in mid-Ulster) and, accordingly, also unlikely to seek involvement. This accords generally with an assessment of Loyalist paramilitary intentions which we received during our round of bilateral discussions at Castle Buildings this morning.
3. We have raised the disturbing reports of forced moves by households in Ligoniel and the Torrens Drive area. As of this morning, five additional cases of homelessness are reported in the latter area; all are being looked after by the Department of Health and Social Services.
4. We have also raised the repeated rumours about a cutting of the power supply and of telephone lines. According to the British side, there is no basis at present for these suggestions.
5. The two additional battalions to be deployed here are the First Battalion of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment and 1 Para. (The latter is the current spearhead battalion of the British Army, i.e., the stand-by battalion available for immediate

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deployment anywhere in the world). Both will be deployed by the end of the weekend. Final decisions on the nature of the deployment remain to be taken. The possible addition of a third battalion is also under consideration. We will be seeking further details over the next few days.

6. The British side have nothing to add at present to what they told us about the McGoldrick case on Monday. They describe as accurate Suzanne Breen's speculation in today's Irish Times about a deliberate policy of reticence on the part of the RUC.
7. Finally, the Orange Order parade which was scheduled to march to Maryfield this evening has been abruptly cancelled by its organisers. No reason has been given.