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NOTE TO THE IRISH SIDE

MATTER RAISED BY THE IRISH SIDE - INSTALLATION OF SECURITY GATES ON ARDOYNE ROAD (LOG NO: 2396)

With reference to your previous note dated 1 May I can confirm that the RUC have made a request for physical security measures in the Alliance/Glenbryn area of North Belfast, including the construction of gates on the Ardoyne Road. The Minister of State, Mr Ingram, is currently considering this request, but a decision is not thought to be imminent.

Northern Ireland Office officials are aware there is a sharp difference of opinion between both communities about the need for these measures. It is clear there is considerable support across the wider local Protestant community for the gates in question and this is reflected by the fact that elected representatives across all the Unionist parties have given their approval to these measures.

Officials are, however, aware of the practical difficulties that construction of the gates would create and the strength of opposition of the nationalist community to what is proposed. The concerns of both sides, together with the views of the RUC will be taken fully into account by the Minister in arriving at his eventual decision in respect of this matter.

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3/4/98

Ciarán Donnelly

Here is the map as promised.

Hope it makes things clear. Holy Cross primary school is a bit further up into Hooketh but you get the idea

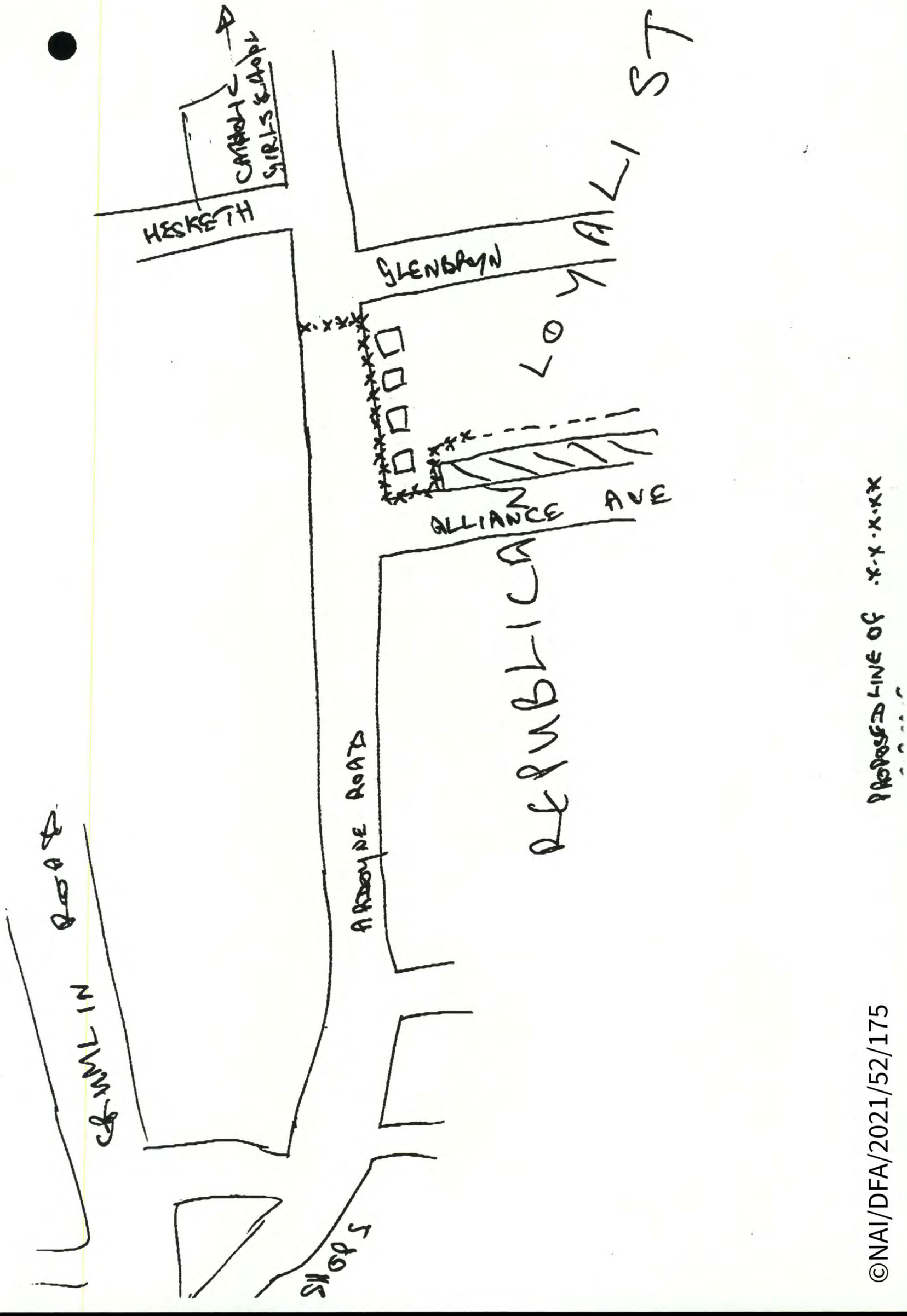
At bottom the issue is twofold

① the police are proposing this without reference to the majority community — the nationalists

② the police are taking decisions which will have political consequences

Ron Reavey

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Any plans re installation of security gates on Ardoyne Road (top of Alliance Avenue)?

If so, would it be the intention to close these only in emergency/crisis situations, or more frequently?

Has there been consultation with the local community, including SDLP representatives?

30 March 1998

Residents oppose barrier

I. News 16/4/98

By Liz Trainor

RESIDENTS in Ardoyne have hit out at plans to erect security barriers at the Alliance Avenue/Glenbryn interface, claiming it will send out the wrong message to the community.

A residents' spokesman said yesterday that the proposal to build a 30ft high wall running between the estates and a security barrier at the top end of Alliance Avenue had been made without local consultation or agreement.

It is understood that the RUC made the recommendation after a series of sectarian clashes between groups in the Catholic Ardoyne area and Protestants in the Glenbyrn estate and the loyalist murder of Catholic workman Liam Conway in January.

But a spokesman for the Alliance Avenue Residents' Committee said: "No one knew about this request. We have asked local residents and none say they were consulted.

"It's an outrage there has been no consultation with groups from our area," the spokesman said.

The Association spokesman said that residents were also concerned that the closure of the gates would block access to the Holy Cross primary school.

"It will inconvenience all the residents in the area. Most people in the area don't want it.

"Erecting walls and fences is not the solution and it reflects poorly and negatively on the youth in the area.

"We have community groups working on both sides to bring an end to this situation. Walls and fences are not the answer."

The Northern Ireland Office said yesterday that it was still considering the request.

⇒ Bruce Maxwell
on 16/4/98

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