

969/34

SECRET

CONCLUSIONS OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT STORMONT
CASTLE ON MONDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 1969, AT 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT: The Prime Minister
The Minister in the Senate
The Minister of Finance
The Minister of Home Affairs
The Minister of Health and Social Services
The Minister of Education
The Minister of Agriculture
The Minister of Development
The Minister of State at the Ministry of Development
The Minister and Leader of the House

ALSO PRESENT: The Attorney General

The Secretary to the Cabinet
The Deputy Principal Officer

1. LONDON DISCUSSIONS ON USE OF TROOPS

Ministers had under consideration a note by the Secretary to the Cabinet on the discussions which had taken place at official level over Sunday, 3rd August to Wednesday, 6th August, a note by the Prime Minister on a telephone conversation with the Home Secretary on 6th August, and a record of the meeting which the Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs had in London on 8th August with the Home Secretary and Lord Stonham.

In discussion it was agreed:-

- (a) that as the overriding consideration was to avoid the use of troops top priority should be given to the strengthening of the Royal Ulster Constabulary up to, and if necessary beyond, the revised establishment of 3,500;
- (b) that the Reserve Force should be further expanded by the embodiment of additional members of the Ulster Special Constabulary to provide if possible an extra two platoons and that consideration should be given to the introduction of under-manning allowances and also of a short-service type of engagement for the Royal Ulster Constabulary with the object of

SECRET

SIX

attracting recruits who might not want to feel committed to the police for a life-time career;

- (c) that there should be no question of entering into negotiations for some compromise arrangement alternative to the suspension of the Northern Ireland Government as envisaged by the Home Secretary in the event of troops being employed on any continuing basis in a peace-keeping role. Instead a further letter to the Home Secretary should reiterate Northern Ireland's objection to this drastic course and stress again the grave repercussions that would certainly ensue;
- (d) that if the Minister of Home Affairs found it necessary to invoke the aid of the military he could count on the full support of his colleagues (though the Minister himself expressed the view that it should be possible to foresee this possibility sufficiently in advance to permit at least some prior consultation with his colleagues); and
- (e) that those Ministers concerned with "reforms" should examine the possibility of accelerating their implementation and report back to the Cabinet.

2. APPRENTICE BOYS' DEMONSTRATION, LONDONDERRY, ON 12TH AUGUST

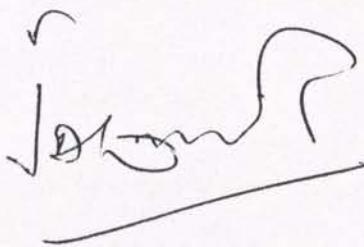
The Prime Minister said that, as a result of his meeting with Apprentice Boys' representatives on the previous Thursday, he was satisfied they wished to co-operate. Consideration had been given to possible alternative routes and to calling off the Demonstration or having one smaller than that planned. A full parade, well marshalled, seemed preferable to one of limited numbers which might include the least reliable element. There was an understanding that the procession could be diverted, at any point during the parade, on the advice of the Police.

3. USE OF C.S. SMOKE

The Prime Minister informed the Cabinet of a revised formula for the use of tear smoke tabled during the talks on 8th August. In addition to use when the only alternatives were

for the police to open fire or to call in the military tear smoke might now be used where "rioting was taking place on a substantial scale, was causing injury to persons and/or extensive damage to property and was prolonged; and if the use of C.S. on the minimum scale necessary would be the most efficient and humane way of dealing with the situation".

The Minister of Home Affairs said the necessary instructions would be given to officers on the ground for their guidance as to the conditions under which the use of smoke might be authorised.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. D. Long R.", is written over a single horizontal line.