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Acknowledged.  
A. A. M.  
6/7/70.

1970/Joint Sec/70

CONCLUSIONS OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD ON SATURDAY  
4 JULY 1970 AT STORMONT CASTLE AT 11.30 AM

PRESENT:

The Prime Minister  
The Minister of Home Affairs (in the Chair)  
The Minister of Development  
The Minister of Education  
The Attorney General  
The GOC  
The Chief of Staff  
The Chief Constable  
The Deputy Chief Constable  
The Secretary to the Cabinet  
The Director of Intelligence  
The United Kingdom Representative  
The Security Liaison Officer  
The Chief Superintendent Crime Special Branch

ALSO PRESENT:

The Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's  
Department  
The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs  
Mr Hill, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs  
The Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet  
The Legal Adviser, Ministry of Home Affairs  
The Civil Adviser to the GOC  
The Press Officer to the Prime Minister  
The Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr T A Cromey

1. BAN ON PROCESSIONS

At the request of the GOC the Committee agreed to a total ban on processions in Belfast, Armagh and Londonderry for a period of three days, the ban to include today's PD march in Armagh and tomorrow's 'Orange' church parades. The Belfast County Grand Master of the Orange Order (Rev M Smyth) had indicated support for the ban. The Church services would go on but Orangemen would be asked to make their own way to them.

The Minister of Home Affairs would consult with the Statutory Committee of the Police Authority about the ban.

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✓ 2. FALLS ROAD 'FLARE-UP'

The GOC reported on last night's 'battle' in the Falls Road area -

It was sparked off by the search for arms in Balkan Street. Crowds gathered - barricades were erected - petrol bombs and grenades were thrown. The situation escalated into a military operation to take over the Falls Road. Five battalions of soldiers were involved and considerable armour.

There had been a lot of shooting throughout the night. Occupants of the area were ordered into their homes for their own safety. Pressmen had been ordered out of the area for the same reason.

Casualties and Arms and Ammunition Find were as per Memo distributed. The Ammunition found was mounting hourly. At 11 00 am this morning the ammunition recovered was into five figures and arrests had increased to 287.

Detailed searching was still going on. There was a tight clamp down on the area - no movement out or in. This would continue over the weekend, with relaxation to permit

- i. delivery of milk and bread to the area;
- ii. attendance at Church on Sunday. (The United Kingdom Representative would speak to Father Murphy about this and, perhaps, a timely word from the pulpit).

Fortunately other parts of the city had remained quiet, apart from a minor shooting incident in the Andersonstown area.

One wondered what the IRA's next move would be. The shooting of soldiers was a possibility and the detention of known extremists should be considered.

A large scale press entry into the area was being organised for this afternoon with the particular aim of demonstrating -

- a. police presence in the area along with the military;
- b. the arms haul;
- c. the justification for the action taken by the Army.

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Delivery of Food supplies (bread and milk) into the area would be permitted between 3 00 pm and 4 00 pm this afternoon and shopping within the area between 5 00 and 7 00 pm. These details would be announced on the 12 55 pm news.

No exception would be made to the ban on entry into the area.

3. FORMAL 'CURFEW' ORDER

The advisability of legalising the 'curfew' in the Falls Road area by an Order under the Special Powers Act and the ancillary problem of a permit system were considered. Decision deferred for consideration by legal experts after the meeting.

4. BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister will make a television broadcast -

- a. to explain the ban on processions;
- b. to ask Orangemen not to meet at assembly points tomorrow afternoon but to proceed individually to the various Church services; and
- c. to appeal to people to be responsible for the protection of their premises against fire and explosion.

5. NEXT MEETING

If necessary another meeting would be called tomorrow (Sunday), otherwise the next meeting would be as arranged on Monday at 11 30 am

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