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*Acknowledged A. A. Yu. 9/14/70. 17*

1970/Joint Sec/96

CONCLUSIONS OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD  
ON THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 1970 IN STORMONT CASTLE at 11 30 AM

PRESENT:           The Prime Minister (in the Chair)  
                  The Minister of Education  
                  The Minister of State at the Ministry of Home Affairs  
                  The GOC  
                  The Secretary to the Cabinet  
                  Assistant Chief Constable Baillie  
                  The Deputy UK Representative  
                  The Director of Intelligence  
                  The Security Liaison Officer  
                  Assistant Chief Constable Johnston, Crime Special Branch

ALSO PRESENT:     The Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's  
                                  Department  
                  The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs  
                  The Secretary to the Police Authority for Northern Ireland  
                  The Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet  
                  The Private Secretary to the Prime Minister  
                  The Press Officer to the Prime Minister

Mr T A Cromey

1. SPECIAL BRANCH ASSESSMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 4 NOVEMBER 1970

Arising out of the assessment -

Para 6: The Assistant Chief Constable, Crime Special Branch reported that the position about possible non-customary parades on Remembrance Sunday had improved.

Para 7: The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs adverted to a note which had been prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and tabled, on the subject of Explosives and the possibility of identifying supplies from manufacturer to individual purchaser. On consideration, it was agreed that identification in this way was not practicable.

Spot checking of personal luggage at points of entry into the Province was also discussed, with particular reference to publicity for the fact that spot checking was done. Such publicity would have a certain deterrent value and it was agreed that the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, should discuss ways and means with the Police.

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Para 21: The Assistant Chief Constable, Crime Special Branch said it had not been possible to pinpoint the area in which IRA training was taking place but there was reason to suspect a location on the south west shore of Lough Neagh. The GOC said the Army would be happy to assist in investigation.

Para 34: The Assistant Chief Constable, Crime Special Branch said it was difficult to assess the probabilities about the proposed Civil Rights march in Enniskillen on November 28 but he would suspect that the weight of opinion within the Association at the moment was slightly against it.

Forthcoming Events: Election, November 12 - arrangements will be made to have the result announced on the morning after the election rather than on the evening of the election.

## 2. LAST WEEK'S RIOTING

The GOC commented on the Ardoyne riots on October 30 -

It was a small-scale affair involving small groups.

The initial Army fire was unfortunate, adding to the tension and putting the Officer Commanding rather on the defensive.

The weapons used against the Army were thrown, not from the front of the groups involved, but over walls and houses. It therefore was not possible to establish a target for search or other positive action.

The petrol bombs thrown were not thrown lethally. There was therefore no justification for firing to kill.

Nevertheless, he had issued orders for quicker and tougher action in future street confrontations (eg more extensive use of rubber baton rounds), and quick and selective pursuit searches where there was reasonable expectation that an area was likely to be harbouring attackers or weapons. Expert search squads had been trained. It was important not to overdo reaction and dangerous therefore to give the soldiers too much freedom of action.

He felt the extremists were being isolated and would be therefore easier to deal with.

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The Army was alive to the worsening situation vis-a-vis the IRA. Explosions were the big problem. They had contingency plans to deal with possible attacks on armouries and Police Stations.

The Prime Minister wondered if there wasn't a case for some sort of voluntary body to keep an eye on the more obvious targets. Would this, for example, be a suitable job for the Police Reserve and, if so, should crash recruitment to the Reserve be arranged in particular areas? He would like to discuss this with the Police, perhaps next week.

There was discussion about the UDR call-out system. The GOC said this was being examined and he hoped to make firm proposals shortly. He personally favoured a siren system. Others favoured the present system of patrols in radio contact. Perhaps the answer was a combination of both.

On the suggestion of the Minister of Education that <sup>sub-</sup>special stations be floodlit, it was agreed that the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, should take the matter up with the Electricity Authorities. Anti-personnel devices were considered, and the general subject of more intensive protection of likely non-key point targets was to be considered by the Security Liaison Officer in discussion with Army representatives. *corrected in next minutes*

### 3. STORMONT SECURITY

The question of security within the Parliament Building, particularly the press and public galleries and the precincts of the House, was considered and referred to the Minister of State at the Ministry of Home Affairs for discussion with the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Police.

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