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CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR INTERNMENT

POWERS AND PROCEDURES

1. The decision to introduce internment will be taken by the Minister of Home Affairs as Civil Authority under the Civil Authorities (Special Powers) Acts (NI) 1922-1943. He will act on advice tendered to the Joint Security Committee by the General Officer Commanding and the Chief Constable, and before doing so will consult the Home Secretary and the Northern Ireland Cabinet.
2. Internment will be preceded by detention, and the relevant powers are contained in regulations 11, 12 and 13 of the Regulations made under the Special Powers Acts (Appendix B).
3. Arrests will be made under Regulation 11 by the police, supported by the Army, in accordance with joint operational orders (Appendix A). Where, after preliminary interrogation, it is desired to detain a person for further enquiries, the police will apply to the Civil Authority for a Detention Order (Appendix C). The Detention Order is an authority for the detention of the suspected person in prison or elsewhere subject to such conditions as may be set out in the Order. When enquiries have been completed (normally within 30 days) the suspected person will then either be formally charged with a criminal offence, or be discharged from detention by direction of the Attorney-General. In the latter case the police will consider whether to apply to the Civil Authority for an Internment Order (Appendix D), and if an Order is granted the person will be removed to a place of internment.
4. Directions as to detainees and internees are set out in Appendices E and F.

ACCOMMODATION

5. Work is in hand on the provision of a hatted camp at Long Kesh suitable for (a) battalion accommodation, or (b) internees. Phase I is due for completion by 15 September 1971. This will accommodate 150 internees plus custodians. A further 2½ months will be required for completion of Phase II; there will then be room for 450 internees, plus 100 custodians. In addition a fortnight will be needed to provide special perimeter defences, and until these are in position extra external guards will be required.
6. There is room in HM Prison, Crumlin Road, for 100 detainees. This accommodation will be available at 4 hours notice.

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7. Accommodation can be provided at HM Prison, Armagh, for 85 detainees at 72 hours notice. Necessary works have been carried out, but in order to make accommodation available prisoners will have to be first moved to Crumlin Road.

8. There will be room in HMS "Maidstone" for 150 detainees or internees at 48 hours' notice. This will give time for troops to be moved out. Within a further fortnight accommodation can be provided for a total of 300, but only on a short-term basis.

9. In addition, up to 100 arrested persons can be accommodated initially in local police or army guardrooms, or at Ballykelly. These places are referred to as interrogation centres.

NUMBERS INVOLVED

10. A provisional list of 325 - 375 internees has been prepared. The aim will be to arrest and detain all these for interrogation. But some may then have to be released, and further persons may be arrested later. The total number of internees may, therefore, be of the order of 300 - 400. The first swoop may be highly successful and bring in 300, or it may be relatively unsuccessful and bring in not more than say 50.

TIMING

11. The following alternative assumptions are made -

- (a) that internment will be introduced on or after 15 September 1971 at a time of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Governments' own choosing,
- (b) that it will have to be introduced earlier to meet an emergency situation.

12. As many persons as possible who are brought in initially will be dealt with at interrogation centres. Thereafter accommodation will be provided as follows -

- (1) 75 detainees at Crumlin Road;
- (2) if the number of detainees exceeds this figure, up to a further 75 will be accommodated at Armagh;
- (3) if the number exceeds 150 the balance will be accommodated in HMS "Maidstone";
- (4) detainees at Crumlin Road and Armagh will be moved to internment at Long Kesh;
- (5) the balance of detainees in HMS "Maidstone" will remain there as internees until Phase II of Long Kesh is completed.

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STAFFING, ACCOMMODATION AND FINANCE

13. The Ministry of Home Affairs will be responsible for all arrangements at the HM Prisons in Belfast and Armagh. Existing staff will be sufficient to cater for the numbers visualized in paragraph 12.

The Ministry of Defence will be responsible for staffing, guards and administration at HMS "Maidstone".

14. Arrangements at Long Kesh will be as follows :-

- (1) The hatted camp will be provided by the Ministry of Defence. When it is brought into use for internment a rent will be negotiated by the Commissioner of Valuation and the Lands' Officer. The Ministry of Home Affairs will be responsible for -
 - (a) the agreed rent,
 - (b) the cost of perimeter defences and other special requirements,
 - (c) the cost of reconversion to Army use on termination of the lease.
- (2) The Ministry of Home Affairs will purchase from the Ministry of Defence such accommodation stores as may be agreed for fitting out the camp.
- (3) The Army will provide external guards, including guards at entrances, and will be responsible for maintaining all perimeter defences.
- (4) Arrangements may be made on a repayment basis for the Army to carry out internal maintenance.
- (5) The Ministry of Home Affairs will be responsible for all internal staffing and for the administration of the camp generally. On a decision being made to introduce internment the inmates of the open prison at Castledillon will be moved to HM Prison, Belfast. Prison officers (approximately 60) will then be moved to Long Kesh. The numbers will be made up to 90, partly by special engagements and partly by recruiting above establishment (already proceeding).

ACTION FOLLOWING FIRST SWOOP

15. As soon as the first swoop takes place it will be necessary for the two Governments to issue a joint statement (Appendix C).

16. The Advisory Committee provided for under Regulation 12 will be appointed (a short list of appointees is now being prepared). A Secretary has been earmarked and a shadow Branch created in the Ministry of Home Affairs to handle correspondence. The procedures to be followed by the Advisory Committee are set out in Appendix II.

17. No action will be required internationally. The European Commission of Human Rights (Article) recognizes the right of a signatory Government to introduce internment in a situation of emergency and HM Government have already entered the necessary derogation under Article

18. It will, however, be necessary to grant facilities for the International Red Cross to inspect the camp at Long Kesh. It will also be necessary to be prepared for petitions to the European Commission of Human Rights under Article 25 of the Convention.

FURTHER REACTIONS

19. Apart from international pressures and the reactions of Parliament and the news media, there will remain two possibilities -

- (1) demonstrations and riots, and
- (2) a stepping-up of terrorist activity.

Contingency plans will be needed for both these eventualities.