

INFORMATION POLICY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 12.00 ON MONDAY 27 JANUARY 1975 IN THE STORMONT CASTLE DINING ROOM

1. Mr Cudlipp in the chair. Mr Allan and Mr Wyatt sent apologies for their absence and the Chairman welcomed Brigadier Campbell, Brigadier Garrett's successor representing HQNI.
2. The meeting considered the paper on undermining the IRA's will to fight. The meeting decided that even in the present uncertain situation it was sensible to submit this paper to the Secretary of State. The submission would be changed to emphasise that these were contingency measures dependent upon the failure of the cease-fire and were not meant for immediate implementation. The submission would be sent through the PUS to the Secretary of State.
3. The meeting then considered the role of the committee in the present situation of uncertainty. In the ensuing discussion it was suggested that greater efforts could be made to improve HMG's standing abroad with regard to Northern Ireland: in particular there was a need to counter the strong IRA propaganda which was prevalent in the American media. The Chairman asked Mr Tom Roberts to prepare a paper on this topic in consultation with his interested colleagues.
4. The Chairman announced that a meeting of the sub-committee on the Montgomery paper would take place in the coming week.
5. The next meeting of the Committee was arranged for Monday 3 February at 12.00 in the same place.

D. Petch.

D PETCH
Div 1(B)

28 January 1975