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M. J. J.

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PB/84/9/2093/JS

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) M

cc - PS/Mr Scott (B&L) M
PS/PUS (B&L) M
~~PS/Sir E Bell~~
Mr Bourn
Mr Brennan M
Mr Doyne-Ditmas
Mr Burns M
Mr Merifield
Mr Gilliland
Mr Coulson



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INTERNMENT ANNIVERSARY PARADE: 12 AUGUST

I discussed the progress of his enquiry into this incident with the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr McAtamney, on 12 September.

HM Inspector, Mr Myers, was here last week to review progress, and was taken to the scene of the incident. The Detective Chief Superintendent from Cumbria has not yet got down to work with the investigating team. The team has nearly completed the first phase of taking of statements. There will be well over a hundred, chiefly from police officers. The media have also for the most part collaborated positively, both with statements and the production of film. There is as expected virtually no help to be had from members of the public present. // The team have received a mass of press photographs. They are also hopeful of being able to view all relevant video tape, even if the owners are reluctant to yield up that which has not been screened publicly. This is critical in identifying the participants in any violence which took place.

The team have already made a number of identifications. Their difficulty in completing a chain of evidence on any individual incident lies in the non-co-operation of the public, with the consequent lack of identification of the victims of possible police violence (other than John Downes). Remarkably enough, only 3 or 4 significant cases have come to light from the whole mass of evidence. For instance:

A. John Downes. The policeman who fired the PBR identified himself. There is a very full dossier of corroborative statements. Mr McAtamney considers a criminal charge more than likely, but reckons manslaughter a more reasonable one than murder (it is of course for the Director of Public Prosecutions to decide). Any charge would

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be significant, both in the general context of the incident and in so far as we have never yet had any criminal charge over the firing of a PBR.

B. A civilian was dragged off by 2 policemen and shown in photographs apparently being belaboured by a third with a baton. The possible belabourer and one dragger have been identified (but not of course the victim). But the former has merely stated "that's me in the picture" and the latter saw no belabouring. This is the sort of case which remains unhappily inconclusive; but I believe that the team will do everything possible to find usable evidence, if it is there.

C. There is film of a girl being thrown roughly out of the way by a policeman who has not yet been identified.

At this early stage, one can say no more than that there is reason to hope that the RUC will be able to show on the one hand that they pulled no punches in their investigations and on the other that instances of actual violence were few and isolated. That does not of course alter the fact that a lot of people present were extremely frightened for a few minutes and this showed up on film shown round the world.

(Mr McAtamney told me, by the way, that he had seen the news film shown by ABC in the US, and thought it fair and balanced).

The investigation will also cover issues of command and control of the incident. I have not yet much of a feel for the likely attitude to that. I suspect that HM Inspector would need to use some influence to inject much spirit of criticism here.

Mr McAtamney was reluctant to put a date on the completion of the report. It will certainly be another month, and we might be lucky to see it before November.

P W J Buxton -

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13 September 1984

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