

E.R.

CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

ME/177/86/JS



PS/PUS (L & B) - M 30/6  
PS/Mr. Bloomfield X  
Mr. Brennan  
Mr. Innes  
Mr. S. Hewitt

Mr. Stephens

### STALKER AND THE IRISH

Mr. Hewitt will be circulating a note of the meeting which was held within the Secretariat on Thursday, 26 June on the Police Complaints Procedure. I should perhaps add this personal note of remarks made to me by Mr. Lillis on the evening of Friday, 27 June, which I believe may reproduce and perhaps expand on similar comments made by him to you the previous day.

2. Mr. Lillis, speaking with particular emphasis, said that it was impossible to overestimate the importance of early action on Stalker; by this he meant prosecutions. If action of this kind were taken, then all else would fall into place - in particular the Irish would find it a great deal easier to accept what we had to say about the Police Complaints Procedure. He implied that in these circumstances the Irish would feel that the independence of our system was sufficiently demonstrated and that there would be no need therefore to press for the points which they have been making recently. However, so long as the Stalker affair remained undecided, and at its present level of political controversy, then it would in his view be the greatest possible mistake for us to publish our Police Complaints Procedure. The British were apt to get Ireland wrong; this would be one of their worst mistakes. The new Police Complaints Procedure was a great opportunity to demonstrate to the minority community in Northern Ireland the capacity of the British system to be objective and fair. If we lost this opportunity now, or wasted it by making our proposals at the wrong time, then we would have made a very damaging miscalculation.

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3. I did not say very much in reply, other than to mention the pressures which I believed existed for action during July if we were not to lose parliamentary time. Mr. Lillis said that he could not understand why delay to the Autumn was not acceptable, if it was really the case that the draft order had to be tabled during a Parliamentary session.

4. This will all be very familiar to you. But I was struck by the manner in which Mr. Lillis spoke. He was not in an emotional mood, but he clearly did feel very strongly.

*M. Elliott*

M. ELLIOTT

30th June 1986

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