

FROM: BRIAN MAWHINNEY
14 JUNE 1989

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TO ALL RECIPIENTS

On 28 February 1989, the Secretary of State held a meeting to consider what level of interest was likely to be generated by the 20th Anniversary of the drafting of the Army into Northern Ireland and what would be an appropriate government stance and, if necessary, response. It was agreed that the government should seek to put this event and subsequent activities into perspective. It was decided that one key element would be the production of a booklet/book and I was asked to produce it. The book was to highlight the nature of terrorist activity (as opposed to dwelling on violence) and to contrast its negativism and wastefulness with the positive achievements and hope associated with good government in the province.

The timetable for the book's production has been very tight and is, of course, dictated by the calendar of events. The book is now in its final stages of preparation and a "dummy" will soon be available for your consideration and constructive criticism and for the Secretary of State's approval. I regret that the pictures in the "dummy" edition will all be in black and white. This was dictated by cost consideration. I hope the "dummy" will be available next week and I am therefore alerting you now to the need for immediate attention.

The book is designed to be circulated to MPs, Councils, media (national and local), libraries etc in the United Kingdom, and to our embassies, consulates and High Commissions abroad as well as to the international media and others interested in the affairs of Northern Ireland.

Because of the tight timetable I regret that we will only have a few days in which to solicit views of ministerial colleagues, senior officials, the RUC and the Army. I apologise for the time pressure but assure you that the immense amount of work which has gone into the project to advance it to this stage was completed against similar tight deadlines.

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Obviously recipients will have views on design etc, but what is essential is that we ensure that the copy is factually accurate, presented in the most effective way, that the pictures are appropriate and given proper placement in relation to the copy. I realise that there will also be the temptation to say that something or other should have been featured but I hope that there will be a general recognition that there is a limit to how much can be included in a publication of this size. However, if there are serious gaffes or major omissions, I will obviously want to have these drawn to my attention as soon as possible.

Your co-operation is appreciated.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian Mawhinney". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

BRIAN MAWHINNEY

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