

FROM: JACQUELINE BLACK
POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
DATE: 26 FEBRUARY 1992

ASST. /
SEC
CENT SEC

Mr Alston - B

cc Mr Steele - B
Mr A Wilson - B
Mr Hamilton - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Lyon - B
Mr Shannon - B
Mr Wood - B *Mr Lynn*
Mr J McConnell - B
Mr Cooke - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Petch - B
Mr Maxwell - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Jardine, PPRU
Mr McClelland - B
Mr Templeton - B
Mr Percival - B
Mr Rickard - B
Mr Perry - B
Dr Rosborough - B
Mr McCaffrey - B
Mr May
Mr McGookin, RUCHQ
Chief Supt Craig, RUCHQ
Brig Low, HQNI
Lt Col Sylvester, HQNI
Mr Bojdys, HQNI
CIVAD, HQNI

ISG(O): THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 1992

I attach the following paper for the meeting of ISG(O) to be held on Thursday 27 February. (Other papers within the NIO have been sent via BLIS).

Item (iv)

9. Vocabulary and terminology to be used or avoided.

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VOCABULARY AND TERMINOLOGY TO BE USED OR AVOIDED

This paper attempts to set out, as requested, an aide memoire for the drafting of briefing, speeches etc.

It is not meant to be quoted verbatim rather to provide guidance lines from which to draw. It is impossible to provide an encyclopaedia of "lines to take" for every occasion and scenario which can simply be taken off the shelf.

There are three distinct areas:

1. The Security Message
2. Themes to address terrorism
3. Phrases to be avoided

THE SECURITY MESSAGE

The Government has a well established and firm security policy. It is always kept under review and the Government is keen that it is flexible and constantly honed to meet changing circumstances.

This policy is one of police primacy and is intended to defeat terrorism by the vigorous and impartial actions of the security forces acting within the law.

The police continue to take primary responsibility for the prevention and investigation of crime, and for securing evidence for the prosecution of crime, including terrorist crime. The armed forces act in support of the police only where and when the security situation makes it necessary.

The police strive daily to protect the people of the Province and the community to which they belong. Northern Irish men and women doing their very best to protect other Northern Irish men and women often at great personal risk. They are doing their utmost to protect their countrymen. We owe them our respect and thanks but most of all we owe them our co-operation in their work protecting our families, friends and neighbours.

The security forces as a whole have many successes which go unnoticed. Four out of five terrorist incidents, perhaps slightly more, are thwarted. Although the Government will not rest until the figure is five out of five the people of the

Province should be reassured by this reflection of the efforts of the security forces.

We have to build on this success.

The security forces mount something like 380 patrols per week and their ability to mount these patrols with regard to manpower and resources is something the Government keeps constantly under review.*

It is essential that both communities have confidence in the police. They have earned that confidence - we owe it to them.

The Government is mounting a major push against the lifeblood of all terrorist organisations - finance. It is committed to attacking every enterprise designed to fund paramilitary activity. Tough new measures in the Emergency Provisions Act go some way towards achieving this and the Government is currently examining how the law may be strengthened to help achieve that purpose.

Intelligence is vital in thwarting terrorism. In preventing incidents before they take place.

The community has it's role to play. Crime, especially terrorist crime, does not take place in sanitized conditions. Someone, somewhere will have noticed something which may be of use to the security forces in bringing criminals to justice. The confidential telephone provides a way of supplying information to the police if people are unwilling to come forward in person. Public assistance, by whatever means, is vital in bringing criminals to justice.

By inaction from either side of the community the terrorists gain succour. It puts at risk the community itself. By reporting anything suspicious to the police you will be giving the men of violence the message "Enough is enough."

Security policy cannot be seen in isolation it must be and is complemented and reinforced by effective political, economic and social policies.

*(The separate paper prepared by SPOB on Pro-active Key Security Statistics will provide further statistics which can be deployed)

THEMES TO ADDRESS TERRORISM

The Government and the vast majority of the people of Northern Ireland want a just, peaceful and prosperous society. It is the terrorists trying to destroy this prospect.

The Government will not be defeated. The terrorists cannot and will not succeed. The sooner they realise the futility of their work and the misery and suffering that it causes and lay down their arms the better for all of us.

They are condemned by democratically elected representatives, by their churches, by the vast majority of their community and it's leaders, by the voters and by the Government. When will they start listening to the voice of the people or is this the kind of democracy and freedom they are offering?

Terrorists put all sections of the community at risk. No-one is excluded. Be they pensioners, children, the sick or people going about their everyday jobs. Be they homeowners whose homes are taken over for terrorists attacks or arms storage. Be they car owners whose cars are needed for attacks or be they people who just happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The calculated and cynical way in which terrorists bomb ordinary people out of their livelihoods is an example to everyone of how much concern they have for the people of this province.

They are self appointed judge, jury and executioners without the slightest respect for human rights.

They act without mandate.

PHRASES TO BE AVOIDED

In general, phrases used by terrorists should not be repeated by Ministers or officials. To do so adds credence to their self-declared status and "glamourises." Wherever possible alternative phrases should be found.

Often phrases used by terrorist groups are not understood outside of their own organisations. eg does the general public have any concept of what an "active service unit" or a "brigade" is other than a gang?

Indeed it could be argued that the word "terrorist" itself lends some credibility and kudos to the groups concerned. "A terrorist attack" could just as easily be described as an attack by armed men.

"Terrorists" are able to create terror but so was the Yorkshire Ripper. They are straightforwardly, thugs. Thugs who have no regard for right or wrong, young or old, sick or able. They are quite simply murderers - men of violence.

Legitimate target - there is no such thing as a legitimate

target.

Innocent victim/civilian - terrorism has no legitimacy and in that situation all its victims are innocent.

The Ulster Defence Association should not be referred to as a terrorist group unless or until it is proscribed.

Archaic adjectives should be avoided such as "dastardly" and "bad" which serve only to distance the Government from the public. "Evil" while a legitimate enough term to use probably needs a rest - after all to most right thinking people that is self evident.

"Godfathers" these are "parasites who send others out to risk their lives while they watch from afar [often increasing their personal gain in the process].

The word "claim" has also crept into everybody's vocabulary. This also also is playing the terrorists game. Where possible we could, to advantage, recognise the fact that such and such an organisation has "confessed" to an attack.

Thought ought also to be given to the phrases used when referring to terrorists groups. PIRA, UVF, UFF - The Provisional Irish Republican Army, the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Freedom Fighters are all names used by the groups themselves presumably with some pride. Murder is murder, murderers are murderers from no matter which organisation they claim to belong.

"Paramilitaries" - this lends some credence to their claim of having some sort of military stature. They are quite simply "armed gangs."