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Passed It comments 489/91
b Andy Wood 10.50
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JP.

IMMEDIATE: DESK BY 10.30

cc PS/Mr Mates (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Fell (B&L) - B
Mr Ledlie - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Millar
Mr McCaffrey

8714

MM
429/7

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

→ Mr Maxwell for file

ORMEAU ROAD MARCH - SECRETARY OF STATE'S REACTION

As requested by the Secretary of State, I attach a first shot at points Sir Patrick might make when he meets the media at lunchtime.

2. Clearly they stand to be modified in the light of this morning's meeting with the Chief Constable and any decision to call Rev Smyth more directly to account than has been the case so far.

[Handwritten signature]

(signed)

A WOOD
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POINTS TO MAKE

Have had a report from the Chief Constable [expand?]. Take this opportunity to make it crystal clear that condemn - without reservation, without qualification - disgraceful behaviour on Ormeau Road on Wednesday evening.

Policing of marches and decisions on routes are an operational matter for the RUC. Confident that if lessons are to be learnt from Wednesday they will be applied. *RUC fully committed to even-handedness in dealing with all sections of the community, from whose confidence they derive their legitimacy.*

Pride in one's identity is legitimate and may be freely expressed in a democracy. But it is not made any more valid or underpinned by attacking - with words, gestures or actions - people who do not share that identity. Pride in identity carries with it the responsibility to show respect for other differing identities.

All the more ^{display of tribalism} advisable in this case when directed at a localised community still reeling from the devastating impact of the Brooke Ship Murder

Demonstrations of identity place a heavy responsibility on the leaders and organisers to ensure that members behaviour is not allowed to descend into a carnival of hate and contempt for others.

Am looking to leaders of the Orange Order to exercise, in the coming days, that authority and responsibility which they can bring to bear on their members. They have no choice - they cannot duck that obligation. If they are really concerned for their reputation, they will show it by positive action to keep their members in line.

Those who march under the Union Flag have a duty to do so sensitively - they harm not only others but themselves and their cause when, with displays of marked sectarianism, they drag it through the gutter.

[Shall be asking Rev Martin Smyth to assure me that necessary steps have been taken to ensure that Wednesday's actions were a sickening, discreditable display which will not be repeated.]

HJ 17590