

489/91

CONFIDENTIAL

Fi : P N BELL, AUS (L)
14 July 1992

UNDER 474/7
SEC
15 JUL 1992
CENT SEC

Mr Steele

- cc PS/PUS(L+B)
- PS/Mr Fell
- Mr Ledlie
- Mr Thomas (L&B)
- Mr Alston
- Mr Watkins
- Mr Leach
- Mr Maccabe *
- Mr Rickard *
- Mr McConnell
- Mr McCusker

* with Mr Watkins minute

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: MARCHES

I have seen Mr Watkins' minute to you of 9 July on this subject. I agree with his view that a review of our policy on marching and public order would be desirable. I recall that the RUC faced similar pressures to re-route/ban a march through a predominantly nationalist area last year, and that there was little appreciation of the legal constraints under which they take these decisions. This is unsatisfactory for the RUC and in community relations terms - although we may conclude that changes in attitude by the organisers of these marches, rather than changes in the law, are fundamentally what are required. I notice (from Mr McClelland's submission of 10 July) that the Chief Constable also appears unhappy with the current position; he is quoted as saying that the RUC "should not be made the scapegoat for unpopular or inadequate statutes".

(Signed PNB)

P N BELL
OAB 6469

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