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ASST 32/12  
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-2 DEC 1993  
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FROM: S A MARSH  
SECURITY POLICY AND OPERATIONS DIVISION 2  
1 DECEMBER 1993

cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) -

B

PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
PS/Mr Fell - B  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Williams - B  
Mr Steele - B  
Mr Wood - B  
Dr Canavan - B  
Mrs Collins - B  
Mr Leach - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mr McCusker - B  
Mr Kyle - B

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B&L) - B

**GREYSTEEL:**

Your minute of 2 November to Mr Maccabe recorded that during his visit to Greysteel in the immediate aftermath of the atrocity the Secretary of State spent some time in the Moore family home and that during the conversation some criticisms were made about the attitude of the security forces in the area. In the light of this I asked Mr Jim Baird, the local civil representative, to make one or two discreet inquiries once the immediate pain and grief had died away.

2. Mr Baird (who lives only a few miles from Greysteel) first approached a local Roman Catholic priest, Father Stephen Kearney,

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3. Fr Kearney said that relationships between the police and the community were very good and that in recent times he was unaware of anyone having any difficulty. He did say that in the past there was a perception that a person stopped at a VCP who said he had come from Greysteel (predominantly nationalist) was more likely to have his car searched than one who said he had come from the nearby village of Eglinton (predominantly loyalist). But, he continued, this was not now the case. He went on to say that in the first thirty minutes or so after the incident the atmosphere had been pretty volatile and that the police only succeeded in maintaining order with some difficulty.

4.

Indeed, at the funerals he had heard young people from both communities saying how grateful they were for the RUC's speedy and sensitive handling of the situation

5. Finally, were very  
interested in providing recreational facilities for the young people of the area - which, apart from those run by the GAA, are apparently singularly lacking. They are prepared to put some money into this themselves but would appreciate some financial assistance from the public sector. Mr Baird has mentioned this to the local district council; and I have raised it with the CCRU here who are making further inquiries.

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Conclusion

6. It therefore seems that the comments made to the Secretary of State may have been magnified by the stress of the moment and in any event more relevant to the past than to the present. The Greysteel community appears to have been recovering from the horror of 30 October and may indeed come out the stronger for it. Mr Baird, who was greatly heartened by his contacts, will remain discreetly in touch.

(Signed)

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EXT 27015

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