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FROM: CHRISTINE COLLINS
Security Policy and Operations Division 1
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ASST SEC 29 MAR 1993
CENT SEC
UNDER/ SEC 1268/3
26 MAR 1993
CENT SEC

- cc PS/Mr Mates (B&L) - B
- PS/PUS (B&L) - B
- PS/Mr Fell (B&L) - B
- Mr Ledlie - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Steele - B
- Mr Deverell - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Leach - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Marsh - B

Mr Watkins

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

RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS: LINES TO TAKE FOR PM'S QUESTIONS

As discussed, I attached lines to take and a short background note for PM's questions this afternoon.

2. Leaving aside the attack in Warrington on Saturday, the last week has seen, in Northern Ireland, a clear shift into higher gear by so-called "Loyalist" terrorists, with a series of attacks targetted on Republican/Nationalist individuals. It has been fortunate that the death toll has not been higher; and the question must be how long will PIRA tolerate these attacks, before launching a reprisal?

3. The reaction to Warrington must be embarrassing the PIRA leadership, but whether this will be sufficient to prevent rapid reaction in Northern Ireland is perhaps dubious.

(signed)

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LINES TO TAKE: RECENT INCIDENTS

- The events of the last week - particularly the carnage in Warrington on Saturday, and in Castlerock this morning - demonstrate that terrorism brings nothing but agony and suffering.
- Terrorism will not prevail: those who engage in it must know that their actions are simply unspeakably cruel and futile.
- Those who commit such atrocious crimes will be pursued relentlessly; and will be brought to justice. Anyone who has any information, no matter how seemingly trivial, which may help should contact the police immediately.
- The way to resolve political differences is by acceptance of the democratic process, and through dialogue freely entered into by properly elected representatives, without violence or the threat of violence.
- That democratic process is unequivocally supported by the UK Government and by the Government of the Republic of Ireland - it is based on

the wishes of the overwhelming majority of our peoples.

- All terrorist attacks are equally repugnant - whether the terrorists aim is to intimidate the English people, the elected representatives of the minority community in Northern Ireland, or simply to murder those perceived to hold different religious or political opinions.
- All victims of terrorism are innocent victims. No civilised society can accept that murder and maiming has any justification whatsoever.

[DEFENSIVE]

Police response inadequate?

- The police, with the support of other agencies as appropriate, will bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice. They have had many successes - and the terrorists are finding it increasingly difficult to conduct their nefarious activities.

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- The Government is committed to providing the necessary resources for the police to counter terrorism. Those resources which include the legislative framework, are kept under constant review and will be strengthened and amended as appropriate.

Irish Government soft on terrorism?

- The Irish Government have unequivocally condemned terrorism on many occasions: we are working together to ensure that security cooperation is as good as we can make it, and meets the changing nature of the terrorist threat.

- We are determined that there will be no safe havens for terrorist criminals.

...attacks last night against the SDLP Councillors are further evidence that the Loyalist threat to the wider nationalist community was not an idle one - two other SDLP Councillors were the subjects of similar attacks on 2 February.

1. 2/2 Belfast

Under Vehicle booby trap (UVBT) picked up by and injured seriously. The device had been attached to the van at ... but fell off. Claimed by ...

2. 2/2 Belfast

Another UVBT - spotted by a passing soldier at the rear of the vehicle, ... into air over. Dealt with by ... Claimed by ...

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Background

ANNEX B

In January 1993 the 'Combined Loyalist Military Command' issued a statement saying that it had widened its list of targets to include the "pan-Nationalist alliance of the IRA, the SDLP and the Irish Government" and so-called "Loyalist" terrorists have continued their attacks. Of 23 deaths due to the security situation in Northern Ireland (as at 11.00am today) 12 were carried out by "Loyalists".

Starting on Tuesday morning they have stepped up the pace of attacks and used a new under vehicle booby trap device. Details of these attacks are given below. This week's attacks have been targetted against; a PIRA member, an INLA member, two Sinn Fein Councillors, one Sinn Fein worker, and two SDLP Councillors. This morning has seen a fatal shooting attack killing three workmen and injuring two others (one critically) which also appears to have been carried out by "Loyalists". Full details of those killed and injured this morning are not yet available.

The incendiary attacks last night against the SDLP Councillors are further evidence that the Loyalist threat to the wider nationalist community was not an idle one - two other SDLP Councillors were the subject of similar attacks on 2 February.

1. 23/3 Belfast
0845 Under vehicle booby trap (UVBT) picked up by and injured seriously. The device had been attached to the van of Mr but fell off. Claimed by UVF.

2. 23/3 Belfast
1115 Another UVBT - spotted by a passing soldier as the owner of the vehicle, was about to get into his car. Dealt with by the Army. Claimed by UVF.

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3. 23/3 Belfast
2345

Improvised grenade thrown into the house of Gerard McGuigan, Sinn Fein Councillor - it exploded but there were no injuries. Claimed by UFF.

4. 24/3 Belfast
0755

Mr Gallagher, a Sinn Fein worker, was shot dead as he arrived for work. Claimed by UFF.

5. 24/3 Banbridge
2348

Petrol bomb exploded outside the house of Jim Walsh, SDLP Councillor - no claim as yet.

6. 25/3 Banbridge
0153

Councillor Cassandra McDermott, SDLP, found an incendiary device outside her house. No claim as yet.

7. 25/3 Belfast
0200

A grenade was thrown into the house of Councillor Joe Austin, Sinn Fein. It exploded but did not cause any injuries. No claim as yet.

8. 25/3 Castlerock,
Co Londonderry
0900

3 workmen were shot dead and 2 injured (1 critically) as they sat in their van when gunmen in a van shot at them. No claim as yet.

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