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FROM: I T MAYE
 Security Policy and Operations Division 1
 27 January 1994

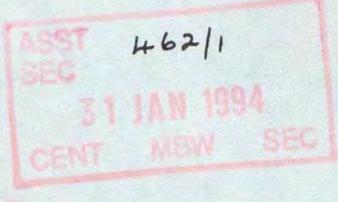
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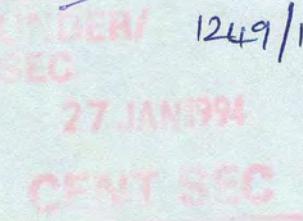
DESK IMMEDIATE

cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
 PS/Michael Ancram (B,L&DENI) - B
 PS/Baroness Denton

(L,DHSS&DANI)



PS/PUS (B&L) - B
 PS/Mr Fell - B
 Mr Legge - B
 Mr Thomas - B
 Mr Bell - B
 Mr Steele - B
 Mr Williams - B
 Mr Watkins - B
 Mr Brooker - B
 Mr Daniell - B
 Mr Leach - B
 Mr Marsh - B
 Mr Maccabe - B
 Mr Kyle - B
 Mr Maitland
 HMA, Dublin - B
 Mr Archer, RID - B



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

IGC(94)1: 28 JANUARY 1994S

I attach revised security briefing as follows, and should be grateful if recipients would replace the previous briefs in their folders:

Restricted Session

- Security situation
- Security co-operation

(signed)

IAN MAYE
 Ext 27033

NB Revisions marked in bold

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SECURITY SITUATION revised

Line to take

- Deeply disappointed that the Provisional IRA continue to mount attacks (including murder of Guardsman Blinco) while at the same time considering the JD.
- PIRA cannot conceivably justify their actions by claiming that they are targeting only security force targets (which is despicable in itself); recent attacks, particularly that which injured 2 civilians near Cappagh, Co Tyrone on Sunday, have shown only too well their callous disregard for the effect of their actions on ordinary people.
- Other PIRA targets have included commercial property (the fire-bomb attacks on 1 January) and security force installations, such as RUC Crossmaglen, where an ATO and another soldier were badly injured in the secondary booby trap explosion.
- The main threat remains from the Provisional IRA. They have been responsible for the majority of attacks since the last Conference meeting. They murdered 2 police officers (in Fivemiletown) and 2 soldiers (1 after the JD) and have mounted many PRIG, shooting and landmine attacks.
- Nor have the loyalist terrorists been quiescent: at least 5 (and possibly 6 - yesterday's murder in Belfast is as yet unattributed) murders since the last Conference, and several attacks in the New Year, including firebomb attacks in the Republic.
- Extend sympathies to the 2 bomb disposal experts injured by the loyalist letter bomb on 4 January; similar risks taken in NI, as Crossmaglen booby-trap shows. Heavy debt owed to both security forces for this service.
- Some loyalist attacks could have been appalling: the Rock Bar, for example.
- [Successes] Many successes. There have been a number of arrests the landmine attack in Londonderry on 19 December; a shooting/PRIG attack in Belfast on 30 December (both of which led to charges) and a find of arms, ammunition and explosives in Poleglass.

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There have also been several very significant finds, against both Republican and loyalist groupings (Rathcoole, Pogglass, Crossmaglen, West Belfast, Shankill).

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SECURITY SITUATION

Background

Sin [REDACTED] the last IGC on 3 November here have been 10 deaths including 6 civilians and 4 members of the security forces. The security situation was relatively quiet following the Shankill and Greysteel massacres; all of the murders since the last IGC took place in the period between 30 November and 30 December.

In the year as a whole, 84 people died, of which 14 were members of the security forces and 70 civilians. This compares with 85 deaths in 1992, of which 9 were members of the security forces and 76 civilians. In 1993, compared to 1992, shooting incidents were down slightly (506 to 476), "punishment shootings" reduced substantially (133 to 84), bombing incidents reduced from 318 to 257, armed robberies reduced from 738 to 632, and persons charged reduced from 405 to 367.

PIRA

The number and frequency of attacks mounted since Christmas reinforces the fact PIRA continue to present the major terrorist threat. 4 of the 9 murders since 3 November were committed by PIRA, but this disguises the fact that PIRA have been responsible for the majority of shooting and bombing attacks during the period, and particularly since Christmas. Since the last IGC PIRA have mounted attacks primarily and intentionally directed towards the security forces; they have also recommenced attacks against commercial premises, as the attacks on 30 December/1 January, on 15/16 and on 19 January clearly show. The RUC had warned traders in advance of the need to be vigilant both before and after Christmas.

It is also clear that PIRA continue to accept the possibility of civilian casualties, even within their own communities, as is evident by the recovery of a 1400 lb command wire device in the Markets area of Belfast, and the recovery of a 1200 lb landmine in Poleglass, both of which could easily have resulted in multiple civilian and security force casualties. Their reckless disregard for civilians was clearly demonstrated by the explosion on 23 January at Clonavaddy, near Cappagh, Co Tyrone which injured 2 passing civilians. Local SDLP Councillors were particularly vehement in their condemnation of the attack.

In addition PIRA have over the last few weeks used a number of Mk15 and Mk16 mortars. PIRA chose a Mk15 attack on Fintona RUC station to mark the end of the Christmas cease-fire on 27 December (after

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which two men were arrested and charged), and there have been a number of PRIG attacks on security force mobile patrols in the Belfast area since, one of the most recent of which resulted in 3 members of the security forces being seriously injured.

Loyalist Violence

Loyalist terrorists were responsible for at least 5 (and possibly 6) of the 10 deaths since the last IGC. They were relatively inactive in the run up to and following the JD, but have begun to mount attacks again since Christmas, with a gun attack on the home of Sinn Fein Councillor Alex Maskey on 2 January, a potentially dreadful rocket and gun attack on the Rock Bar on the Falls Road on 8 January, the attempted murder of a Catholic worker at a factory in South Belfast on 10 January. Yesterday's murder of a man in his girlfriend's home in the Ormeau Road area of South Belfast - the first of 1994 - is believed to have been a sectarian murder, and is likely to have been committed by loyalists.

The Irish will be particularly concerned about the parcel bomb attacks on Sinn Fein offices in Dublin on 4 January, the first UVF attack since the JD. One detonated outside the offices; the other exploded whilst being examined, injuring two members of an Irish Army bomb disposal team. The devices were not sophisticated, but it is significant that they were posted in Dublin. A separate supplementary brief on recent loyalist attacks in the Republic is included in the briefing pack.

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SECURITY CO-OPERATION - revised

Li to take

- Grateful for the recent significant arms and explosives finds (eg recovery of Mk15 mortar on 13 January, arrest and charge of Anthony Heaney in Letterkenny on 9 December, recovering 4 Mk15 mortars in the process, and recent finds of mortars, arms and ammunition in Scotstown). Congratulations again to the Garda and the Irish Army.
- The need for such successes persists - the terrorist threat is all too present, as the recent interceptions of Mk15 mortars in the border area clearly shows. Despite all our efforts to deny terrorists the use of the border, they continue to exploit it.
- Need to build on the already excellent cross border security co-operation. Vital to do so to defeat terrorism.
- In particular, would not wish to lose sight of the importance we attach to the issue of border flight safety zones. Not for discussion today. But should note that it has been remitted to officials for further consideration.

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SECURITY CO-OPERATION revised

Background

As usual, it will be valuable to thank the Irish for recent finds and arrests in the Republic to lead directly into the general discussion on potential action in the event of a rejection of the JD.

The Garda have been particularly successful in recovering explosives and weaponry since the last IGC. If anything, the combination of recent finds (Monaghan, Louth, Donegal), cross-border attacks (eg the murder of two police officers in Fivemiletown on 12 December and the Mk15 mortar attack on Newtownbutler RUC station) and the interception of weaponry (such as Mk15 mortars) clearly destined for use in the North in the near future, underline the border's continuing importance to PIRA and the need to continue to attempt to deny them the use of the border. Recent finds and cross-border incidents are shown in the lists attached to this brief. It is interesting to note that vehicles used in several recent attacks have been stolen in the Republic and used in cross-border attacks. Most recent vehicles used have been stolen in Navan.

There will be no discussion of security co-operation issues per se in the restricted Session. Most major security co-operation issues have been remitted to the Chilcot/Dalton group, and to its sub-group on police structures. A joint report to the December Summit was prepared, but not in the event taken. However, work continues, and further meetings of the Chilcot/Dalton fora are planned for February/March. It is anticipated that, in addition to the work already underway within the group, that it will try to find a way forward on border flight safety zones (on which a paper is being prepared). The Secretary of State indicated at Wednesday's pre-brief that he would wish to continue to register our interest in flight safety zones. The line to take reflects this.

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RECENT INCIDENTS WITH A CROSS-BORDER DIMENSION

Rosslea

1 December 1993

2 to 3 shots were fired at an Co Fermanagh Army foot patrol about 1 km south of Rosslea. There were no casualties. Two suspects were seen running across the border to the south-east.

Newtownbutler,
Co Fermanagh

7 December 1993

Mk 15 mortar attack from a white Nissan van, which had been stolen in Navan on 26 September. The police believe that the terrorists used BCP 161 to carry out the attack.

Fivemiletown,
Co Tyrone

12 December 1993

2 policemen shot dead. Two getaway cars were later found at BCP 110.

Fintona,

27 December 1993

Mk15 mortar attack on Fintona RUC station. Vehicle used had been stolen in the Republic. 2 men subsequently charged.

Clogher,
Co Tyrone

16 January 1994

RUC VCP intercepted Mk15 mortar mounted on car trailer. Seven men subsequently arrested in follow-up. Attack believed to have been mounted from across the border.

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RECENT GARDA SUCCESSES

1993

Donegal town 19 November A routine search by the Garda uncovered more than a quarter of a ton of HME (650 lbs) packed into 10 plastic bags in a derelict farmhouse at Ardchicken, just to the south of Donegal town. No other accessories were found.

Letterkenny
Co Donegal 9 December Four men arrested following the recovery of 4 Mk16 mortars. Anthony Heaney was remanded in custody. The other three were released without charge.

1994

Bridgend
Co Donegal 12 January 75 lbs of HME recovered in plastic bags hidden in a pallet.

Scotstown
Co Monaghan 12 January Primed Mark 15 mortar mounted on an Isuzu Trooper vehicle found in a wood near Scotstown, Co Monaghan. The vehicle had been stolen in Navan in early January.

Keanogue
Co Louth 16 January Garda and Irish Army (who were providing cover for the NI security forces as part of a joint operation) discovered 3 mortar tubes and a barrel for a .50 calibre weapon.

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Scotstown
Co Monaghan

19/22 January

Mk15 mortar together with a vehicle, several Mk15 mortar tubes and mortar making equipment recovered from a bog near Scotstown. 70 spent cases, an AK47 bayonet and 58X .762 rounds of ammunition found on suspected firing range.

Scotstown
Co Monaghan

24 January

2lbs semtex, coretex, black powder, 3 detonators, gas bottles, TPU, a Mk15 propulsion unit and mortar-making equipment found in a building near Scotstown. Roof section of vehicle used in earlier Mk16 attack recovered.

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