

m. Murphy.

31 AUG 1994 DEL/11/19/94

453/94

FR  
DESK IMMEDIATE

From: PS/Secretary of State (B)  
11 August 1994

- cc PS/SofS (B&L) - B
- PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
- PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L) - B
- PS/PUS (B&L) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Legge, o/r - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Wood - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Daniell - B
- Mr Perry - B
- Mr Marsh - B
- Mrs Collins - B

Mr Steele - B

*Helen*

365/8

11 AUG 1994

CENT SEC

STATEMENT BY KEN MAGINNIS ON THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S INTERVIEW

Ken Maginnis telephoned today to register his "disgust" at the comments by the Chief Constable on radio this morning about reducing troop levels, which he described as "an unmitigated disaster and pandering to the IRA". He hopes the NIO will clarify the situation and distance itself from them.

2. Mr Maginnis said that he had discussed his statement with Mr Molyneaux and they had agreed that, if this was the basis on which the Government was proceeding, then there was little point in any further meetings on political development with Michael Ancram (though Mr Maginnis had apparently taken a reference to this out of the statement at his leader's suggestion!). I understand you have since spoken to Mr Maginnis and agreed to contact him again when you have received a transcript of the Chief Constable's remarks.

Signed

W K LINDSAY  
Private Secretary

SOFS/19609

STATEMENT ON THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S INTERVIEW  
by Ken Maginnis, MP 11 August 1994

The Chief Constable's careless use of words on which he publicly parlayed with the IRA is unforgiveable and suggests that he has outlived his usefulness here.

To make promises to the IRA about reducing troop levels on the basis of a "prolonged ceasefire" was to fly in the face of the very firm conditions articulated by Government and conditional on a total "cessation of violence".

Mr Annesley has given the IRA its biggest boost of the last 12 months by offering to "tail down" the level of army support in response to a lessening of IRA attacks on the RUC, and the courageous men and women of that service will feel humiliated by such words.

Has the Chief Constable not understood that the tragic result of previous ceasefires has been a reorganised and regrouped IRA or not realized that this is just what the IRA need at a time when its international political credibility is in ruins.

The Secretary of State may now have no option but to stand Mr Annesley down as head of the RUC, insofar as the Chief Constable's opinion is clearly in conflict with Government's stated position and with what needs to be done to defeat the IRA.

The Government's policy on the use of the army had not changed and the Secretary of State was determined to maintain force levels appropriate to the threat. If the threat significantly changed that would obviously be taken into account by the Chief Constable in advising the Secretary of State, but "demilitarisation" was not in question except where there was a demonstratively permanent cessation of violence. The Secretary of State did not welcome unwarranted claims to the contrary.

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SOFS/19609

390/8

H53/94

22 AUG 1994 08/213/14  
12 AUG 1994

12 AUG 1994

FROM: J M STEELE  
AUS (SECURITY)  
11 AUGUST 1994

- cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
- PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L) -B
- PS/PUS (B&L) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Legge (o/r) - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Bell
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Wood - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Daniell - B
- Mr Perry - B
- Mr Marsh - B
- Mrs Collins - B

*Handwritten initials and marks*

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

STATEMENT BY KEN MAGINNIS ON THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S INTERVIEW

Further to your minute of earlier today, I attempted to contact Mr Maginnis for several hours without success. By the time I got him I had not only read the transcript of the Chief Constable's interview but had also had the benefit of a conversation with the Secretary of State.

2. I told Mr Maginnis that the interview had not been inspired by the NIO, nor had we known about it in advance, but that in any event there was nothing new or startling in it. The Government's policy on the use of the army had not changed and the Secretary of State was determined to maintain force levels appropriate to the threat. If the threat significantly changed that would obviously be taken into account by the Chief Constable in advising the Secretary of State, but "demilitarisation" was not in question except where there was a demonstratively permanent cessation of violence. The Secretary of State did not welcome unwarranted claims to the contrary.

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PH/3733

PH/3733

3. Mr Maginnis took all of this like a lamb, even agreeing that what was said in the interview constituted nothing new. The timing of the interview however, was most unfortunate and looked like an attempt to encourage a cease-fire. I gained the impression that he was well pleased with the coverage he had engendered and particularly the front page story and leader in today's Belfast Telegraph.

- PH/MS (B&L) - B
- PS/Mr Tall - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Steele - B
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Hill - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Wood (B&L) - B
- Mr MacCabe - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Daniels - B

J M STEELE  
EXT 27012

DUTY PRESS OFFICER

STATEMENT BY MR MAGINNIS ON THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S INTERVIEW

I gather that tomorrow the Times may follow the Belfast Telegraph lead in reacting negatively to the Chief Constable's interview. I attach some lines to take, which have been agreed by Mr Steale.

J M STEELE  
EXT 27012

PH/3733

**DESK IMMEDIATE**

17 AUG 1994 DBL/SC/94

393/8  
12 AUG 1994  
453/94

**FROM: N P PERRY  
SECURITY POLICY AND OPERATIONS DIVISION 1  
11 AUGUST 1994**

- cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
- PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
- PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L)
- PS/PUS (B&L) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Steele - B
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Wood (B&L) - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Daniell - B

**DUTY PRESS OFFICER**

**STATEMENT BY KEN MAGINNIS ON THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S INTERVIEW**

I gather that tomorrow the Times may follow the Belfast Telegraph lead in reacting negatively to the Chief Constable's interview. I attach some lines to take, which have been agreed by Mr Steele.

**N P PERRY  
EXT 27028**

PH/3734

LINES TO TAKE

- Nothing new in the Chief Constable's comments. As he made clear there is no question of military support for the police being reduced while that support is needed. As long as violence continues it will be met by a firm and resolute response by the police and the Army, with the Government's total support.
  
- Operational decisions are for the Chief Constable. Obviously decisions on operational deployments, and the nature and level of security force activity to prevent and detect crime and protect the community, are influenced by the prevailing threat. That is commonsense. It has nothing whatsoever to do with making 'promises' to terrorists, or sending signals. The commitment of the Government and the security forces in bringing terrorism to an end remains absolute.
  
- We are not interested in temporary ceasefires. What both Governments and the people of Ireland want is a permanent cessation of violence. If that happens, then obviously there will indeed be major consequences for the maintenance of law and order, and the deployment of troops. Until then, however, the security forces will continue to act against the men of violence with full vigour.
  
- No question of the Chief Constable resigning.

PH/3734

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