

FROM: G HARRISON
CPL DIVISION
7 SEPTEMBER 1994

ASST
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CENT SEC

cc: PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) -B
PS/PUS (L&B) -B
Mr Thomas o/r -B
Mr Legge -B
Mr Bell -B
Mr Watkins -B
Mr Williams -B
Mr Steele -B
Mr Wood (L&B) -B
Mr Brooker o/r -B
Mr Maccabe -B
Mr Marsh -B
Mr Maxwell -B
Mr Canavan -B
Mrs Brown -B
Mr T Smyth, A-I Sec -B
Mr Maye, SPOB1 -B
Mr Beeton -B
Mr Caine -B

Mr Ross -B

COMBER DISTRICT ORANGE LODGE: SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON
WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 1994

As requested, I attach supplementary Q and A briefing for use by
Press Office in connection with the above event.

2. I understand that it is planned to release a copy of the speech
to the press after the event. Annexed to the draft speech were
lines to take on questions tabled in advance by Lodge members.
Together with the speech these will cover the main areas of unionist
concern. The attached supplementary briefing focuses therefore on
more general questions such as the timing and significance of a
speech to an Orange Lodge.

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CPL1/AJH/18899

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BRIEFING FOR PRESS OFFICE

Q. Why is the Secretary of State delivering this speech now to an Orange Lodge?

Is there any significance in the timing of this speech?

A. The invitation is of long standing and the date was arranged long before recent developments.

The Secretary of State received an invitation in May to address members of Comber District Orange Lodge. He considered that it was important to take the opportunity to explain Government policy.

Q. Is this the first time that the Secretary of State has addressed members of an Orange Lodge?

A. Yes, although like his Ministerial colleagues he has met with senior representatives of the Grand Lodge in Ireland from time to time to discuss matters of mutual interest. Also, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge (Rev Martin Smyth) is a Parliamentary colleague.

Q. Will the Secretary of State be speaking to any other Orange Lodge?

A. We are not aware that the Secretary of State has received any other invitations from an Orange Lodge. But if such an invitation were received, the Secretary of State would of course consider it.

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Q. Would the Secretary of State be willing to speak to an equivalent nationalist/catholic organisation such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians?

A. If the Secretary of State received such an invitation, he would of course consider it.

Q. Has the Secretary of State ever received such an invitation from an equivalent nationalist organisation?

A. Not as far as we are aware.

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