

Mr McAleer - B Information Services

REVIEW OF PARADES AND MARCHES - ANNOUNCEMENT OF DR NORTH'S APPOINTMENT

Further to Mr Perry's minute of 30 July, please find attached, as promised, Q&A material on various practical aspects of the review. This should be read and used in conjunction with the Q&A material already provided at Annex E of Mr Perry's minute of 23 July 1996.

Signed

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TOM CLARKE SHA Extn 27017

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Q & A MATERIAL

A -

- 1. Q When will the review body start work?
  - A Shortly. The deadline for the review to bring forward recommendations remains January 1997.
- 2. Q As a non-local, will Dr North be able to command sufficient respect?

Dr North, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University is a well known and highly respected academic and previous Law Commissioner; he has experience of working on issues of important public interest. HMG is confident that he will bring to the review the necessary qualities and intellectual ability. He also comes

to these issues with an open mind.

- 3. Q <u>Has Dr North previous experience of public order problems</u> or of Northern Ireland?
  - A Dr North has been a visiting lecturer at Queen's University. He has also deep experience of legal matters and has worked in the field of conciliation and other areas of public interest.
- 4. Q What criteria was used when choosing the Chairman?
  - A HMG was looking for a candidate with a proven track record of expertise in many fields and experience of public appointments. Dr North fitted the bill admirably.
- 5. Q Who else was considered?

A A number of names were considered.

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6. Q - <u>Who will the other members of the review be?</u> How many will

there be?

A HMG is pursuing a number of options and hopes to shortly be in a position to announce the names of the other members of the review. Numbers are not yet finally decided.

# 7. Q - Is the Government not simply dragging its feet?

- A No. The review was originally announced by the Secretary of State in the House of Commons on 11 and 15 July. Subsequently, terms of reference were announced on 24 July and the name of the Chairman has now been made known. Far from dragging its feet, HMG has quickly moved to implement its commitment.
- 8. Q Would it not have been better to wait and announce the review when the team was complete?
  - A HMG considered that Dr North's appointment should be announced as soon as this had been confirmed.
- 9. Q Where will the review be based?
  - A The review will conduct its work from offices in central Belfast. Further details will be provided in due course.
- 10. Q <u>Will the review be examining the proposed Apprentice Boys</u> <u>March on 10 August?</u>
  - A The purpose of the review is not to arbitrate on individual marches.
- 11. Q Will the review be truly independent?
  - A The review will be totally free to make recommendations within the terms of reference given, based solely on the evidence given to it by interested groups and bodies. HMG

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does not seek to impose any pre-conceived ideas or solutions on the review team.

12. Q - Will it speak to Sinn Fein?

A - Who the review consults is a matter for it.

13. Q - Where the Irish consulted?

A - Under the terms of the Anglo-Irish agreement the Irish Govt were invited to put forward proposals on the composition of body.

14. Q - Did they put forward names?

A - You need to refer to the Irish Govt.

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PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B) 31 July 1996

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B PS/PUS (B&L) - B PS/Sir David Fell - B Mr Thomas - B Mr Legge - B Mr Steele - B Mr Bell - B Mr Leach - B Mr Watkins - B Mr Blackwell - B Mr Wood (B&L) - B Mr Stephens - B Mr Hill - B Luiz. Mr Maccabe - B Mr Clarke - B Mr McAleer - B

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Mr Perry - B

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The Secretary of State was grateful for your submission of 30 July 1996, which requested his agreement to the announcement of Dr North's appointment today and to the text of the draft press release attached to your submission.

The Secretary of State is content that Dr North's appointment 2. should be announced today and that the text of the press release. He has also seen PS/PUS' minute of 29 July 1996, and is content that Mr Steele should approach the other two proposed members and that their appointment should be announced once they have agreed to serve.

(SIGNED)

ROBERT CRAWFORD Private Secretary

BB/SOFS/28564

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31 July 1996

## CHAIRMAN OF REVIEW OF PARADES AND MARCHES APPOINTED

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP, today announced that he has appointed Dr Peter North, QC CBE, Vice Chancellor of Oxford University, to chair the independent review of parades and marches in Northern Ireland. The names of the other members of the review, which will begin as soon as possible, will be announced shortly.

### NOTES FOR EDITORS:

1. Dr Peter North QC CBE, Principal of Jesus College, Oxford has been Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford since 1993. He was born in Nottingham in 1936 and educated at Oakham School and Keble College, Oxford. He has lectured at the Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, 1960 - 61; the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, 1961 - 63; and the University of Nottingham, 1963 -65. He was Tutor in Law at Keble College, Oxford from 1965 - 76, and was Fellow of the College from 1965 - 84. He was Law Commissioner for England and Wales from 1976 - 84. He chaired the Road Traffic Law Review from 1985 - 88, and the Conciliation Project Advisory Committee, 1985 - 88. He is the author of many books and articles on various aspects of the law.

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## 2. Terms of reference:

The terms of reference for the review, which were announced by the Secretary of State on 24 July, are as follows:

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"To review, in the light of evidence received from any interested party and having regard to the particular experience of 1996, the current arrangements for handling public processions and open-air public meetings and associated public order issues in Northern Ireland, including:

- the adequacy of the current legal provisions, and in particular the adequacy of the statutory criteria used in making decisions on public processions and open-air public meetings;
- the powers and responsibilities of the Secretary of State, police and others;
- the possible need for new machinery, both formal and informal, to play a part in determining whether and how certain public processions and open-air public meetings should take place;
- the possible role for and composition of Codes of Practice for organisers of and participants in public processions and open-air public meetings;

and to make recommendations by the end of January 1997."