

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20 AUGUST 1986 TO CONSIDER PLANS FOR THE
DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN AN EMERGENCY

1. Present

Mr M Lynn, NIO
Mr E Beaman, DED
Mr J McGibbon, DOE +2080
Mr T Boyd, DOE - +2331
Mr J Given, DANI
Mr T Robinson, DANI
Mr P Murray, MAFF

2. It was explained that DANI had requested the meeting to clarify their responsibility in the plan to deal with the emergency distribution of food during a political strike.
3. Mr Lynn outlined the different stages at which the food distribution chain could be broken and asked the various representatives to indicate at what stage they foresaw difficulties in dealing with the problem.
4. The normal distribution chain is from the ships to the warehouses then to the wholesalers distribution store and on to the retail shops and supermarkets where it is sold to the public.
5. The first break in the chain could be caused by the withdrawal of dock labour and in this event there is a MACM plan to deal with the situation. It was noted that in Belfast the problem could be eased by the fact that it is unlikely that both the deep sea and coastal dockers would be out at the same time. It was accepted that a stoppage of this nature should not cause any problems for Departments.
6. The next link in the chain involves the dockside warehouses which, if they became unavailable would have to be replaced by warehouses identified and taken over by DED. These buildings would still be in the dock area and the army would transfer the goods from the dockside to the store. MAFF/DANI would help to identify essential supplies with the DED being responsible for the administration of these stores. It was noted that this situation is more likely to occur at Belfast rather than Larne where the goods are imported by container or lorry.
7. If these DED warehouses become unavailable then a number of alternative stores, identified by ^{DED}Dani, would come into play. DANI agreed that they would identify the alternative warehouses and look at their capability

VET
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
2

to administer these centres. Transportation of the goods would be arranged by the DOE although they would be unable to find sufficient vehicles from within their own fleet and would rely on the Emergency Regulations. It was pointed out however that the co-operation of the DOE drivers would depend on the seriousness of the stoppage and the degree of general support it has in the community.

8. The final link in the chain involves the wholesalers and it was agreed that if this network ceased to function it would only be as a result of a very serious breakdown of public order and would necessitate the setting up of distribution centres at all of the major towns and the escorting of the supplies to these centres. It was suggested that this operation would be so enormous that it would be outside the capabilities of the Departments and would involve a further MACM plan.
9. A copy of the essential supplies coming in through the docks was provided to DOE and DANI so that they could assess the number and type of vehicles needed and the size of stores required. Mr Murray agreed to check that the information on the list was up to date.
10. Mr Beaman agreed to provide DANI and DOE with a list of warehouses that they can identify.
11. Mr Lynn asked everyone to consider the implications for their Departments and to let him have their comments by 12 September in advance of another meeting which was arranged for 10.00 am on 16 September.

Emergency Planning Branch
Northern Ireland Office
Dundonald House
BELFAST

27 August 1986

CONFIDENTIAL

HS



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Northern Ireland Region

Windsor House 9-15 Bedford Street Belfast BT2 7EG

Telephone 0232 232417

T Robinson Esq
Department of Agriculture
for Northern Ireland
Room 562
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Rd
Belfast BT4 3SB

Your reference

Our reference

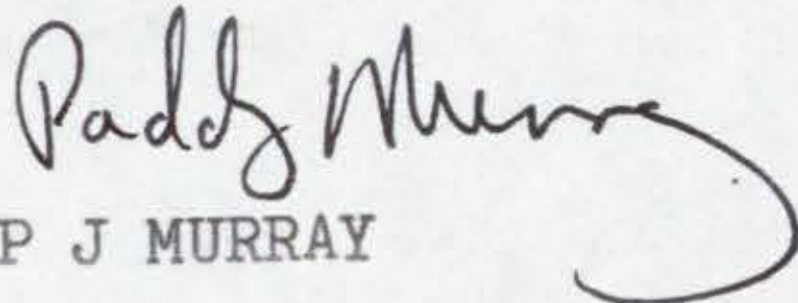
Date 11 August 1986

Dear Tommy

As requested I have urgently prepared a list of the food warehouses of the main food chains in N.Ireland which I now enclose. A fully comprehensive list of all the wholesale provisions and groceries outlets in the Province is also available and you will find an up-to-date copy (Dec 1985) at Section IV A of the Commodity Plan for Wholesale Provisions and Groceries.

I hope you find this information of use.

Yours sincerely


P J MURRAY

MAIN FOOD TRADE WAREHOUSES - N. IRELAND

Spar Group:

Glengormley, Co Antrim

Mace:

The Cutts, Derriaghy, Dunmurry Co Antrim

Stewarts &
Crazy Prices:

Direct delivery to their shops; Main commercial
warehouse is at Castlereagh Rd Belfast

Holmes Cash &
Carry:

Warehouse and outlets at:
Belfast (Linfield Industrial Estate, & Charters
Industrial Estate, North Howard St)
Coleraine, Londonderry, Ballymena, Cookstown,
Newtownards, Enniskillen, Omagh, Banbridge, Larne
and Portadown. It also has a large Depot at
Ballymoney from which deliveries are made.

Wellworths':

Broadfields, Oritor Rd, Cookstown at present
provide warehousing facilities for Wellworths.

SECTION IV A
~~December~~ 1985