

Mr. Cairns**SECRET**S. of S.Re-entry into Bogside and Nogoland

In the discussion Sir Philip Allen had with him yesterday, the G.O.C. closely linked your visit with his plans for re-establishing a police presence in the forbidden areas.

He said he hoped that you would include in the final communique or in your own remarks a strong appeal to the Catholics in the two areas to show sense and forbearance when the military began, as they would, to re-introduce police patrolling. The discussions he had had with the Citizens' Defence Committee had led him to think that the right time to set about re-entry would be when the Northern Ireland Government had shown their determination to carry through the reform programme - which means that he would mount the operation a day or two after the weekend. He expected the move into Nogoland to be more straightforward than the move into Bogside, where the R.U.C. had not set foot for about a year. In the first place he would send in military police and possibly policewomen, establish patrol posts and then encourage regular patrolling jointly of military and police, with an increasing proportion of police participation.

This description of the G.O.C.'s intentions may now be out of date. We have heard this morning that the re-entry into Nogoland will be effected today, since the Citizens' Defence Committee have declared that they are quite prepared to have military police. We have not been in direct touch with military headquarters but we assume that the G.O.C. will seize this opportunity; and if things go well it will be a splendid start for your visit.

SECRET

There is in any event one point to mention. In the past week or so the G.O.C. has evidently been working himself up to a form of dramatic action to restore law and order in the closed areas. He has been talking of taking a firm line with the Citizens' Defence Committee, whom he told some days ago that as soon as the decisions had been announced on the Hunt recommendations he would no longer see any justification for excluding forces of law and order. He told the Committee that the R.U.C. would then be put back on the streets and, in describing his discussion with them to Northern Ireland Ministers, he spoke of having issued an ultimatum. He also spoke of the rather different problem in Bogside being dealt with ultimatum fashion.

One is bound to feel a certain uneasiness about the free use of a word of the kind which leaves no room for manoeuvre. But, so far as I know, no publicity has been given to the use of the word; and if it comes off matters will be greatly eased.

(Signed) J. H. WADDELL

8th October, 1969.

Copies: Sir Philip Allen
Mr. Hockaday
Mr. Carincross