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Covering SECRET

Mr. Cairncross

I attach a note of the principal items in my conversation yesterday with the Inspector General of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Sir Philip Allen, the Minister of State and S. of S. may like to see?

*Lu.*

5th June 1969

on note of 28/5 - below  
think to GA - I'm from Cl's  
(with private office) - S.O. not  
pursuit - we will take  
up with H.B.

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The Inspector General of the Royal Ulster Constabulary called on me at the Home Office on 4th June. The principal topics covered in a long conversation are as follows.

2. Immediate future - The build up towards Orange Day on 12th July has begun and increasingly local lodges will be staging processions for the installation of new masters. This itself creates a new situation in which fresh disturbances may occur arising, for example, from (i) a "sit-down" to be staged by members of People's Democracy on Dungiven Bridge on Sunday, 8th June blocking a customary Orange Order procession, (ii) a march through the centre of Belfast by the Connolly Association on Sunday 15th June, which the Rev. Ian Paisley has declared he will not allow, and (iii) a possible resumption of street demonstrations by the Civil Rights Association beginning with one in Strabane on 28th June. All this could produce an explosive situation in which, Mr. Peacocke said, the R.U.C. might have to use new tactics (e.g. smoke) if they were not to be overwhelmed. If in this situation firearms were to be used (and they are not difficult to get hold of in Northern Ireland) the ~~Irish Government~~ <sup>Inspector General</sup> considered that the Northern Ireland Government might be forced to ask for military patrols to control disorder. Mr. Peacocke feared that the honeymoon period would come to an end next Sunday. Mr. Peacocke would not offer an opinion on what might happen on 12th July itself; it depended, he said, on events in the meantime.

3. If, however, the period to 12th July (after which the holiday season begins) passed off without serious incident Mr. Peacocke thought that a start could be made with relieving the military of responsibility for protecting public utility installations. Incidentally, the R.U.C. still have no definite information about who was responsible for the damage to electricity and water installations last April.

4. Political situation - Northern Ireland now has a stable Government and Mr. Peacocke said that he thought the mass of the Unionist Party was in

/whole-hearted

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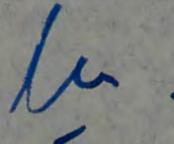
**SECRET**

whole-hearted support of their policies; despite the persistent opposition of "hard-liners" he considered that there was general recognition in the Unionist Party of the necessity to carry through the measures necessary to secure an end to communal sectarian bitterness.

5. Civil rights movement - Working through the "revolutionary socialists"

(anarchists, trotskyites etc.) the I.R.A. is very active in the civil rights movement, in pursuance of their aim to bring down the Governments in the North and the South by fostering social discontent. They claim (and Mr. Peacocke did not disagree with this) to control two-thirds of the local civil rights committees. He said that this militant element is not concerned with civil rights and will not, therefore, countenance an end to disturbances because the Government have acted to remedy abuses.

6. R.U.C. Intelligence - Mr. Peacocke outlined the intelligence machine of the R.U.C. He presides over the Internal Security Committee on which the security liaison officer and the military liaison officer serve with officers of the R.U.C.; the minutes of meetings are sent to the Minister of Home Affairs and this information he supplements in regular conversation with the Minister week by week. A second committee dealing with practical protection and key points is chaired by the Deputy Inspector General; the Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, attends this committee. There is a third, over which the Attorney General presides, to consider the law affecting public disorder and especially the possibility of dispensing with the Special Powers legislation. Mr. Peacocke was clearly not attracted by suggestions to institute e.g. a steering committee presided over by an official or by introducing an official e.g. to take the Internal Security Committee.

  
5th June 1969

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