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CONCLUSIONS of Morning Meeting
held at Stormont Castle on
Monday, 10 July 1972 at 11 30 am

PRESENT

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Lord Windlesham
Mr Paul Channon MP
Mr David Howell MP
Sir William Nield
Sir David Holden
Sir Harold Black
Mr N F Cairncross
Mr K P Bloomfield
Mr J T A Howard-Drake
Mr D J Trevelyan

GOC
Deputy Chief Constable
Mr F F Steele
Mr K D McDowall
Mr T M Roberts
Mr T C Platt

Secretariat

✓ Mr L S Duncan
✓ Mr S C Jackson

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1. SECURITY - EVENTS OF PRECEDING WEEK-END

The GOC, Deputy Chief Constable and others present outlined the events of the week-end in which the fortnight-old Provisional IRA "truce" came to an end. The main features and likely developments were:

1. There were over 200 shooting incidents.
2. Six civilians, including a Roman Catholic Priest, had been killed.
3. The circumstances of the Priest's death were as yet not clear.
4. All Orange Church parades with the exception of that at Portadown had been carried out peacefully.
5. The Security Forces had been fired at in Portadown on the Sunday morning several hours before the later and more serious outbreak on the Suffolk housing estate.
6. In relation to the well-publicised event at Suffolk it had to be recorded that the Army were fired at many times before they replied.
7. The emotive issue of "fighting for houses for Catholics" at Suffolk recalled the situation of earlier years.
8. Barricades were beginning to re-appear in Londonderry.
9. There was still evidence of Catholic support in Londonderry for the Secretary of State's general policies.
10. Of the 17 deaths by violence during the so-called "truce" period, 13 were attributable to the "Provisionals".
11. If the Army did not now attack the IRA the probability was that the UDA would.

After discussion of the political and strategical factors in the new situation the following decisions were taken:

- A. The Secretary of State would return to London immediately to make a statement to the House of Commons in which he would
 - (i) confirm that he had held talks with Provisional leaders in London on the previous Friday;

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- (ii) put the blame for the ending of the "truce" fairly and squarely on the Provisionals who must now take the consequences;
- (iii) announce the Government's intention to carry on the war with the IRA with the utmost vigour.
- B. Lord Windlesham was also to return to London immediately to make a similar statement in the House of Lords.
- C. It would continue to be the Government's aim to keep the Provisionals isolated from the sympathy of the main body of the Catholic community.
- D. The GOC would see UDA leaders that afternoon and impress upon them that while their efforts as vigilantes in their own areas were acceptable, their presence in any riot or shooting situation would not be tolerated.
- E. Further detentions might be necessary.
- F. Those on the wanted list before the ceasefire would no longer be immune.
- G. More troops and material would be needed for the operations visualised.
- H. The UDR would have to be called out and used more widely than before.
- I. Plans were to be produced urgently for the containment of areas known to harbour bombers and gunmen.
- J. The Army should not be inhibited in its campaign by the threat of Court proceedings and should therefore be suitably indemnified.
- K. The Orange parades on 12 July were to proceed as arranged with minor re-routing only where necessary to avoid 'flash-points'.
- L. The next meeting in the series designed to solve the housing problem at Suffolk should take place as arranged that evening, at best to advance a solution, at worst - in the absence of the representatives of the Catholic community - to show that the authorities were still anxious to find a mutually acceptable solution.

L S DUNCAN

Distribution:

Those present

Mr P J Woodfield

Miss B M Peters

Mr J B McAllister

Mr F R Rodgers

Miss Joan Owens

✓ Mr W J Smith

✓ Mr R J Seaman

✓ Mr R C Stevens

✓ Mr T C Hetherington, AG's Department, London

All NI Permanent Secretaries

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