

CONFIDENTIAL

HCS/2/31

cc. PS/Mr Scott B&L
PS/Dr Mawhinney B&L
PS/PUS B&L
Mr Stephens
Mr Brennan
Mr Gilliland
Mr Innes
Mr Chesterton
Mr Elliott
Mr Wood
Mr McConnell
Miss Elliott
Mr Bell
Mr S Hewitt
Mr Cowling
Mr Alford
Mr Ehrman

PS/Secretary of State B&L

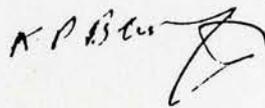
PRESENTATIONAL STRATEGY GROUP

1. I hope that when the Group next meets we can discuss how Government ought to respond to the growing degree of threat and menace in some of the utterances of the local politicians, particularly those from the DUP stable.
2. At one of the meetings held in London on 6 February the Secretary of State was told of the argument advanced by Mr Peter Robinson that future Honours Lists should be scrutinised for "collaborators". Speaking in the Assembly on 5 February, Mr Denny Vitty saw fit to speak in the terms of the attached extract from the Official Report.
3. I find the tone and implications of remarks such as this wholly unacceptable, and believe that Ministers should be seen publicly to reject them as quite inappropriate within our free democratic system. Government has been very careful, while standing by the Agreement, to take a reasonable and conciliatory line so far with the Unionists politicians; but they should not be left with the impression that

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

anything goes. We could find various ways to register our disapproval:- through a Ministerial speech; in the course of a "door-step" or other interview; or by some sort of formal communication with the Assembly itself about the gross breach of all normal or acceptable standards of behaviour. Whatever means we use, we must be seen to be standing firmly behind those, whether members of public bodies or public servants, who continue to serve the community and to do their duty.



K P BLOOMFIELD

7 February 1986

CONFIDENTIAL

The results of the by-elections on Thursday 23 January demonstrated most forcibly that those who speak for the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland have a mandate to say "No" to the Anglo-Irish Accord.

Let me now turn to one particular group that has been affected by this Anglo-Irish deal. The Royal Ulster Constabulary has been placed in an intolerable position. The rank and file have been sold out by their senior officers. They have been left in an indefensible position in their local communities. Sir Jack Hermon is sitting at the same table of betrayal as our would be rulers from Dublin and, clearly, he is following the dictates of Peter Barry and his Intergovernmental Conference. Ordinary members of the RUC have read the Agreement and they know that, in effect, it means being controlled from Dublin. In his heart Sir Jack Hermon may well be able to say "I can accept Peter Barry as my lord and master", but Sir Jack is deceiving himself if he thinks he is representing his men when he sits at the Secretariat on their behalf. The rank and file of the RUC have no stomach for defending Dublin rule in Northern Ireland and, from the wide-ranging contacts that I have within the RUC, I believe that the ordinary men are in total support of the strong, and growing, feeling in the communities from which they come.

The fight against this Agreement extends beyond the two leaders of Unionism, although I must commend them for the route along which they have taken us and the firm leadership that they have given; it extends beyond our MPs; it extends beyond those of us who are privileged to sit in this House and the hundreds of Unionist councillors in this province. It is a fight that affects every citizen who takes the name of Unionist. May I say that there will be those who call themselves Unionists who will, for their own selfish ends, seek to depart from our stand and go by another route. Those persons must be dealt with and left behind. It is the responsibility of every person, whether inside or outside the political framework, to maintain total opposition and to take a solid stand against the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Finally, let me turn to Dublin's seat of government in Northern Ireland. Peter Barry's orders are being enacted from Maryfield and it is there that civil servants from the Northern Ireland Office are in conspiracy with those of a foreign state. This conspiracy, if allowed to take root, will destroy the Union forever. These civil servants are betraying Ulster. They do so in the belief that they are safe behind the steel gates of Maryfield and thinking that they are protected and secure from the public outside. Do they believe that nobody will know who they are? I will tell you who they are: Mr Steven Hewitt - a lackey - Valerie Steel and Mr Millar. They are the traitors who are representing Ulster at Maryfield. We must make sure that these people who co-operate are identified and shown to the world for what they are - traitors.

- MR. DENNY VITTY IN ASSEMBLY DEBATE
WED. 5 FEB. '86