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Security

Not new relevant - following
M. Warren's reply to P.S.
10/3

1. This note is subject to discussion and checking with the Departments immediately concerned.

2. Courses are

(1) Leave Foreign Affairs ^{to} call in Ambassador for part by part explanation. This should be done immediately.

(2) phone Mr. Callaghan making points -

(a) contents of "secret" note appeared in newspapers before it was delivered here;

(b) the note contains speculative statements for which no evidence whatsoever has been produced;

(c) there is a well known and operating system by which evidence of specific offences can be conveyed between the police forces, North and South. This has not been used at all on the present occasion. There has, for example been no application whatever - since 1973 - under the 1861 provisions dealing with murder or the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act, 1976, dealing with a wider range of terrorist offences. Instead the vague allegations are repeated;

(d) we can only assume that it is the Secretary of State's intention to cause trouble in Northern Ireland. In this assumption, we would have to withdraw police and troops from the border. Already of the police force and of the army are stationed in this small area of the country leaving vital buildings and installations elsewhere unprotected. Is this what the Secretary of State wants?

(e) Whatever his purpose, his actions are making co-operation between the police forces North and South, which has been excellent, more difficult;

(f) If there is too much talk of violence on the border we can point to many occasions when official evidence shows that the offences were not the work of paramilitary groups but of official British army groups e.g. S.A.S. trials, Monaghan cases;

memo on
Referred. Clavin,
Rushley, ^{to Mr. ...}
Johnny (Callaghan)
etc.

Canham
/ →
→

- (g) We think that this ~~type~~^{type} of argument is utterly unproductive. Both British and Irish Governments have a common interest in fighting terrorism: But the fight cannot be whole hearted or successful if one side persistently refuses to use the procedures for countering it which have been agreed between both sides - and are working satisfactorily. This was confirmed at our meeting last September and we have taken care since to ensure that the co-operation continues. We have in fact, asked British Government representatives on many occasions since if there were any complaints - or any way in which the existing procedures were not working. The answer has always been that the procedures were working satisfactorily;
- (h) Security will be immeasurably worsened if one side continues to make allegations for which even now almost one week later no firm evidence has been given;
- (i) The whole situation has become so serious that we think it would be well worthwhile for us to set aside an hour or so for discussions when we meet in Copenhagen next month. If this is agreed, we can set up an arrangement through our offices;
- (j) in the meantime, it is essential that evidence, if it exists, should be produced through the normal channels so that we can act on it. If all that exists is speculation and opinion which has no value in court, then its continued repetition must seriously damage the security effort in which we both have a vital interest.

mainly
by KA's meeting also?

10th March, 1978.