

SECRET

MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE, GOC AND CHIEF CONSTABLE  
ON MONDAY, 5 JUNE AT 11.15 AM IN STORMONT CASTLE

PRESENT: Secretary of State  
Sir William Nield  
GOC  
Mr Woodfield  
Chief Constable  
Mr McDowall

The GOC and the Chief Constable reported the general security situation since the last meeting of the Joint Security Committee.

In discussion the following main points were made:-

- (a) The security forces should continue as far as possible to avoid a confrontation with the Protestants in respect of barricades in Belfast and elsewhere.
- (b) If the GOC and the Chief Constable could identify those in control of the Protestant barricades the Secretary of State might see them in an attempt to discover their objectives and plans.
- (c) It now seemed possible that the SDLP would be prepared to co-operate in seeking an early end to civil disobedience.
- (d) The Secretary of State was giving detailed consideration to the possible scope for further political initiatives in the near future.
- (e) The scope for increased activity by the security forces on the Border near Londonderry was limited but would be considered by the GOC.
- (f) The area of IRA influence in Londonderry was spreading. The Londonderry traders whom the Secretary of State was seeing that afternoon were becoming increasingly concerned.
- (g) JSC(0) should consider the possibilities of "sealing off" the No Go areas in Londonderry.
- (h) The restraint being exercised by the security forces would be assisted if others adopted a more moderate attitude towards the Army.

T C PLATT  
5 June 1972

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