



**SECRET**

GENERAL SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The proposed conference of political parties is likely to be brought forward to Thursday, 15 June, when the Secretary of State expects to make a "state of the nation" speech on television to people in Northern Ireland. A meeting with Mr Faulkner is to be arranged for the same day or the Wednesday evening when it is hoped Mr Faulkner will be in London.

HUNGER STRIKES

The Secretary of State reaffirmed the earlier decision that no further concessions are to be made to hunger strikers. There was a discussion about the wisdom of appointing an independent doctor to examine strikers. While this was agreed in principle Mr Howard-Drake and Mr Buchanan were to consider such an appointment in further detail and in particular the question of selecting the right person.

F R RODGERS

Distribution:

Those present

Lord Windlesham

Mr Paul Channon MP

Mr David Howell MP

Sir William Nield

Mr P J Woodfield

Mr K McDowall

Mr T C Platt

Mr R Haugh

Chief Constable

Mr J B McAllister

Mr S C Jackson

Mr R J S Wilson

Miss Joan Owens

Mr T M Roberts

Mr N Cairncross, NI Office, London

Mr W J Smith, NI Office, London

Mr R J Seaman, NI Office, London

Mr R C Stevens, NI Office, London

Mr T C Hetherington, AG's Department, London

Permanent Secretaries

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