

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DAILY MEETING HELD AT 9 45 AM ON  
14 JUNE 1972 IN STORMONT CASTLE

PRESENT:                   The Secretary of State  
                          Mr David Howell MP  
                          Sir William Nield  
                          Sir David Holden  
                          Mr P J Woodfield  
                          Mr K P Bloomfield  
                          Mr J T A Howard-Drake  
                          Mr K McDowall  
                          Mr H F T Smith  
                          Mr T C Platt  
                          Mr I M Burns  
                          Deputy Chief Constable

#### GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION

There was a discussion about the rejection by the Secretary of State of the ultimatum for talks by the Provisional IRA and about the best methods of further presentation of the reasons for such rejection in the light of the continuing discussions with the UDA. The differences between the two organisations and their approach to talks were covered in the discussions which also considered the possibility that the rejection of this IRA approach might tend to lessen in areas like the Bogside and Creggan the signs of growing disenchantment with the IRA. Mr Howard Smith was asked to enquire through such people as Mr Hume and Mr Laggan the reactions of people in Londonderry to the latest developments. Mr Smith also agreed to look into the possibility that the request for talks by the IRA without preconditions about internment might enable some progress to be made towards formal talks with the SDLP.

The Secretary of State referred to the growing necessity to consider further firm action in relation to the Londonderry 'no go' areas. It was possible that a decision to mount a new containment operation in Londonderry might be taken in the next couple of weeks. This was to be discussed later in the day with the Army and the effects of such an operation on opinions in the Bogside and Creggan would have to be carefully examined.

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In considering the reactions and attitudes by Catholic communities generally the Secretary of State asked that any current economic and social advances planned for such areas eg the development of the Whiterock Industrial Estate, should be progressed and publicised as quickly as possible.

The proposal that the Secretary of State should talk on television to people in Northern Ireland was again discussed. It was agreed that this might be done on Friday 15 June but a firm decision would be taken when Cabinet decisions were known on Thursday and the Secretary of State had the opportunity to consider a draft statement being prepared by Sir William Nield, Mr Smith and Mr Bloomfield.

F R RODGERS

Distribution:

Those present

Lord Windlesham

Mr Paul Channon MP

Sir Harold Black

Mr R Haugh

Mr R M Whalley

GOC

Mr J B McAllister

Mr S C Jackson

Mr R J S Wilson

Miss B Peters

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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