

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Mr Carroll 83/9
2-SEC/11

PC9519 E.R.

4/1

Mr Coulson - M

9
HEAD OF THE N.I.
- 7 SEPT.
CIVIL SERVICE

cc PS/S of S (B) M
PS/Mr Scott (L&B) M
PS/PUS (L&B) M
PS/Sir Ewart Bell M
Mr Brennan M
Mr Bourn M
Mr Buxton M
Mr Burns M
Mr Merifield M
Mr Gilliland M
Mr Lyon M
Mr Bickham M

RECEIVED
1155
- 7 SEP 1984
MUFAX ROOM
STORMONT HOUSE ANNEX

BORDER ROAD CLOSURE - M8

As I mentioned to you last evening, I have spoken to the Secretary of State along the lines of Mr Lyon's minute of 6 September to me. The Secretary of State was still a little concerned that we had given insufficient time to Dublin to react to our planned action but in the light of the Chief Constable's operational manoeuvres he agreed that work on reclosure should proceed. I have explained that there must be some likelihood of Mr Barry wishing to object personally to the Secretary of State, and Mr Prior is prepared for this and I would expect him to hold to the line that this is a reclosure, it raises no new policy issues and that lives are at risk.

2. As I also mentioned to you, the Secretary of State has been somewhat 'bounced' over this closure, being left by the Chief Constable with effectively no alternative but to agree to his proposals. I should be grateful if, in future, you will bear in mind in seeking approval for closures the need to allow sufficient time for the diplomatic approaches to be made to the Republic of Ireland. I imagine in practice this will mean submissions at least one week in advance of the planned date for closure.

Neil Ward.

N D WARD
7 September 1984

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E.R.

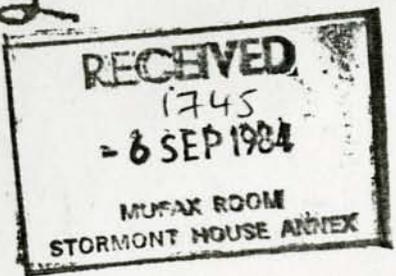


PS/Secretary of State (L)

- cc: PS/SofS (L)
- PS/Mr Scott (L&B) - M
- PS/PUS (L&B) - M
- PS/Sir Ewart Bell - M
- Mr Brennan
- Mr Bourn - M
- Mr Buxton - M
- Mr Burns
- Mr Merifield - M
- Mr Gilliland - M
- Mr Coulson - M
- Mr Bickham

22/9/84

9/2



1. Mr [Signature]
2. SEC 11

BORDER ROAD CLOSURE - M8

Your note to Mr Coulson of 6 September invited me to arrange for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin to be informed of the Secretary of State's decision that border road M8 should be reclosed.

2. Our Embassy in Dublin has now spoken informally to the DFA to let them know of the decision. The matter was presented in a low-key way. The DFA were informed that the road was being reclosed (and so did not add to the tally of road closures) and that the Garda had been fully consulted. For operational reasons the closure would be effected in the very near future. The DFA took note and we have so far had no further response.

3. I understand that the Chief Constable has moved officers in to secure the area around M8 and wishes to effect the road closure as early as possible on 7 September. He feels strongly that, given the nature of the area, he could not delay further having once informed the Garda of his proposals without putting at risk the security forces who are in the area to effect the decision.

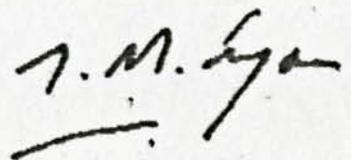
4. We should in other circumstances have wished rather more time to elapse after informing the Irish and there is a risk that they will take exception to the shortage of notice they have been given. On the other hand, we have informed them in advance, the reclosure raises no fresh policy issues, and we hope, therefore, that any objections we receive can be borne.

5. We shall let the Secretary of State know of any new developments.

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E.R.

and when the closure has been effected.



J M LYON
SIL Division

6 September 1984