SECRET

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE - MEMORANDUM BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CONTINGENCY PLANNING - PETROL

1. The Level 2 Oil Plan drawn up by Department of Commerce in consultation with the Army provides for the requisitioning of 21 petrol filling stations to be designated as Government Authorised Filling Stations (GAFS).

2. The location of 'First Preference' GAFS is shown on the attached list (Annex 1) but this may be subject to variation depending on the nature of the emergency.

3. GAFS will be guarded and operated by Army personnel only and petrol will be sold only to holders of specially printed coupons. Coupons with a face value of £1, £2 or £3 will be issued to essential users in whatever combination and to whatever total value is necessary to cover a period of four weeks' essential use.

4. Coupons have been distributed to Departments as shown in Annex 2 on the basis of returns of key departmental staff and other readily identifiable essential users.

5. Department of Commerce considers that the plan could be criticised as being inadequate to deal with a Level 2 situation unless it includes provision for the distribution of coupons to essential users who cannot or have not been catered for in advance, e.g. key industrial workers, Ministers of religion, food retailers who use their own transport for 'cash and carry', those visiting the sick and the dying, undertakers, etc.

6. One way of catering for such persons would be through Licensing Centres, located preferably within convenient distances from GAFS, whose function would be to consider personal applications and issue (or refuse) coupons. (In a Level 2 situation it is likely that the postal system would be disrupted.) This would require, say, two Licensing Centres for Belfast and one at each of the other 16 locations.

7. The security forces have indicated that they would be unable to provide any protection for Licensing Centres and DOC in its efforts to identify suitable offices has encountered departmental opposition to the use of Government Offices either because any staff available will be needed for the Department's own emergency procedures or because of the lack of security against theft of coupons or intimidation of staff and public.

8. Departmental representatives on the Emergency Committee are asked:-

   a. to say whether or not they consider the list of essential users (Annex 2) is complete;

   b. to see if they can identify any groups of essential users, such as those mentioned in para 5 above, which cannot be put on Departmental lists;

   c. to say if they wish the Oil Plan to include provision for Licensing Centres or for some other means of issuing coupons to such occasional essential users during a Level 2 Emergency;

   d. to volunteer the use of suitable offices for Licensing Centres near to the GAFS locations shown in Annex 1.

9. If the Emergency Committee considers that Licensing Centres will be needed it is for CSMD to say if staff should be directed to man them in a Level 2 Emergency.

SECRET

Derek McVitty

November 1975

DEREK McVITTY

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S E C R E T

ANNEX 1

LIST OF 'FIRST PREFERENCE' GOVERNMENT AUTHORISED FILLING STATIONS

Five in Belfast area, viz:

- Holywood Road
- Shore Road
- Balmoral
- Falls Road
- Newtownbreda [redacted]

One each at:

- Aldergrove (1)
- Larne (9)
- Ballymena (4)
- Ballycastle (3)
- Coleraine (6)
- Londonderry (10)
- Sion Mills — Strabane 16
- Cookstown (7)
- Omagh 15
- Enniskillen (8)
- Armagh (2)
- Lurgan (11)
- Ballynahinch (5)
- Newcastle (12)
- Newry (13)
- Newtownards (14)

S E C R E T

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ANNEX 2

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

PERSONS ALREADY ISSUED WITH MOTOR FUEL PERMITS

I. EDUCATION

	PERSONS
5 Area Boards (10 persons in each)	50
1 Principal at each of 1,500 schools	1,500
10 Senior Officers of the Department	10
10 persons to distribute GCE and CSE papers (May/June period)	10
	1,570

II. COMMUNITY RELATIONS
(now held by Department of Education)

20 Departmental staff	20
30 Community Relations reps	30
	50

III. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
(Departmental staff)

1,833 persons (home to office)	1,833
272 " (supplementary benefits claims)	272
14 " (emergency work)	14
	2,119

IV. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

750 doctors	750
320 dentists	320
600 chemists	600
160 opticians	160
	1,830

V. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE *

Essential staff	484

VI. NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE *

Miscellaneous HQ staff	872

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VII. DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER SERVICES *

	PERSONS
Senior HQ staff and support staff	100
Security at Government Training Centres	13
Other essential services	1,000
	1,113

VIII. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

HQ staff	18
Development officers and support staff	29
District Councils (including Belfast and Londonderry)	151
Other non-vital services	42
	240

IX. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Veterinary inspectorate etc	270
Private vets	130
Milk Marketing Board	100
Pigs Marketing Board	50
Home to office etc	480
Other non-essential but important	1,350
	2,380

X. DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (NI)

HQ staff	50
Fire Service staff	1,400
	1,450

XI. POLICE AUTHORITY

Vital	20
Essential	70
	90

XII. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

15 persons	15

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XIII. NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE (Contd) *

	PERSONS
Prisons	710
Training Schools	65
Courts	331
Civilian searchers	68
	1,174

XIV. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

HQ staff	400
Belfast Harbour	247
	647

TOTAL PERSONS PROVIDED FOR 14,034

* In these cases requirements were stated in gallons and were converted to persons by a rule-of-thumb method (approximately 5 gallons per person).

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