FROM: A M DODDS

1 OCTOBER 1991   MD/15731/91/JEC

DESK IMMEDIATE

                                      CC PS/PMG (B&L) - B
                                          PS/Min of State (B&L) - B
                                          PS/PUS (B&L) - B
                                          PS/Mr Fell - B
                                          Mr Thomas (B&L) - B
                                          Mr Ledlie - B
                                          Mr Alston - B
                                          Mr Wilson - B
                                          Mr Bell - B
                                          Mr Leach - B
                                          Mr Cooke - B
                                          Mrs Collins - B
                                          Ms Lodge - B
                                          HMA, Dublin - B
                                          Mr Archer, RID - B

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

STATEMENT BY THE TAOISEACH ON THE KILLING OF KEVIN McGOVERN

Please find attached a copy of a statement issued by the Taoiseach
today in response to the death of Kevin McGovern at Cookstown. This
is somewhat stronger in tone that I would have expected, though, I
suppose, the reference for action on the problem on the use of
lethal force is only to be expected.

2.   The line we are taking privately with the Irish is that while
the shooting was a tragedy (the Chief Constable himself has made his
position publicly clear), it would not have happened if the IRA were
not operating in the area, as they have subsequently admitted. A
full line to take with the Irish has been submitted to the Secretary
of State by Mrs Collins earlier this afternoon.

(Signed)

MARCUS DODDS

STATEMENT BY THE TAOISEACH ON THE KILLING OF KEVIN McGOVERN

The Government view with deep concern the tragic killing of Kevin McGovern by the RUC in Cookstown on Sunday night, and have sought through the Anglo-Irish Secretariat a complete account of what occurred. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will be raising the matter with the Secretary of State, and will be urging that all aspects of the death of Kevin McGovern should be investigated thoroughly and promptly and that there should be an independent element in the investigation process which will be capable of commanding full public confidence.

The circumstances in which Mr McGovern was shot dead raise once again the problem of the use of lethal force by the security forces in Northern Ireland. They further underline the need for action on this issue so as to prevent a recurrence of such tragedies in the future.