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Velma,  
do we have a file on this  
subject?  
Gan

FROM: PS/Secretary of State  
9 December 1991

cc PS/SofS (B&L) - B  
PS/Paymaster General (B&L) - B  
PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
PS/Mr Fell - B  
Mr Ledlie - B  
Mr Thomas (B&L) - B  
Mr Alston - B  
Mr A Wilson - B  
Mr Steele - B  
Mr Chesterton - B  
Mr Hamilton - B  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Wood - B  
Heads of Divisions (B&L)  
Mrs Black - B

cc. Mr. Whyte  
Mr. Lee  
Mr. Mr Fadden  
Mr. Jannetty

1 cc Mr Lyon  
~~Mr. [unclear]~~  
[unclear]

I think this is useful to have - perhaps  
for speeches, etc.

W. 11/12

PS/Mr Needham (B&L) - B  
PS/Mr Hanley (B&L) - B

Mr Page  
We ought to get in on his  
exercise when next it comes  
up. (do you?) say in?

**INFORMATION STRATEGY GROUP (MINISTERIAL): KEY SECURITY MESSAGES**

The Information Strategy Group, chaired by the Secretary of State with the participation of the Paymaster General, Minister of State, Chief Constable and GOC, recently reviewed the need to ensure that representatives of Government at all levels and throughout the Province seek to get across a balanced set of key messages about our security policy, and about the role which other aspects of Government policy have in the overall campaign against terrorism. The Group has approved the attached set of key security messages. This is designed to serve as a quarry for Ministers and officials to use, in context, not only with the media but with opinion formers of all kinds throughout the Province. It is not meant to be followed slavishly but rather as an aide-memoire to ensure that the basic messages are put across both persistently and consistently, and that the interaction between key elements of security and economic policies are recognised.

2. The Secretary of State has asked me to circulate the note to Ministers not represented in ISG, and to senior officials in NIO, who may wish to draw it to the attention of others who work for them

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who are in touch with the community. A separate exercise has been mounted with Northern Ireland Permanent Secretaries.

3. This exercise complements that on "Themes to Hurt PIRA" which was circulated with Mr Alston's minute of 22 February.

*A J D Pawson*

**A J D PAWSON**  
Private Secretary

An Independent Assessor of Military Complaints procedures in Northern Ireland, established under the Emergency Provisions Act, will soon play an important role in independently examining the procedures for dealing with non-criminal complaints.

The Independent Commission for Police Complaints maintains an oversight of complaints against police officers, and must supervise the most serious cases. Its supervision is no mere cipher - it can veto the appointment of an investigating officer; can send the report of the police investigation to the Director of Public Prosecutions and can direct disciplinary proceedings to be taken if appropriate.

Deterrence

The first priority of the Government is to end terrorism in Northern Ireland - from whichever side of the community it comes. There is no acceptable level of violence. All violence will be met with a firm and resolute response.

The security forces do not simply react to violence when it occurs. A great deal of successful effort goes into

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- We call on all men and women of goodwill to co-operate with the security forces as they carry out their duty to protect the community. Necessary security operations may sometimes cause inconvenience to persons with no connection with terrorism. That is regretted, but the terrorists bear the ultimate responsibility for that inconvenience.
- The Government encourages anyone who believes they have a genuine complaint about the conduct of a police officer or member of the armed forces to use the procedures which exist for the investigation and remedy of such complaints.
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detering, preventing or cutting short terrorist activity, without which the situation would be very significantly worse. Much of this work necessarily goes unpublicised; but it should not be forgotten.

- Emergency legislation, including in particular the Emergency Provisions (NI) Act 1991, is so framed to ensure that the police and armed forces have the legal means necessary to protect the community effectively and at the same time to provide appropriate safeguards for individuals. The need for further powers, and the possibility of allowing existing ones to lapse, is kept under constant review.

- Around one third of all crossing points along the border are closed. In the great majority of cases crossing on foot remains possible. The first duty of the Government must be to protect life, and provide as much protection as possible for the whole community.

- The Government will continue to ensure that the police and armed forces have the resources (including an appropriate legal framework) they need to undertake their difficult and dangerous work on behalf of all the people of Northern Ireland.

- The recent enactment of a new Emergency Provisions Act, containing significant new powers for the security forces and provisions designed to allow effective action to be taken against the financing of terrorism, is evidence of the Government's determination to ensure that those at the sharp end of the fight against terrorism have an appropriate legal framework within which to act.

- Terrorists will be dealt with through the energetic, but even-handed, enforcement of the criminal law.

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- The Government is committed to strengthening the Northern Ireland economy and improving the competitiveness of Northern Ireland industry. In so doing it will seek to promote equality of opportunity in employment for all. ]
- The Government has established the targeting of social need as a major public expenditure priority. This is intended to tackle social and economic differentials between the two sides of the community. ]
- The Government will continue to promote special initiatives for socially deprived areas of Belfast and Londonderry. ]
- The Government is addressing the causes of communal division by promoting greater cross-community contact and respect for cultural diversity. It is also committed to promoting equality of opportunity and esteem.
- The Government is in the process of developing structures to assist the self-help regeneration of the most deprived rural areas. It is also prepared to support projects or initiatives of a cross-border nature which are of benefit to the citizens of Northern Ireland.
- The IRA's attacks on so-called 'commercial targets' simply put at risk investment and jeopardise or destroy jobs. They also mean that money which might have been put to more productive use has to be diverted to repair the damage.
- Our goal is to restore normality, with the ultimate aim that all military support to the police should be removed when the security situation permits.
- There is no shoot to kill policy. The security forces are allowed only to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent crime or make a lawful arrest. If members of the security forces break the law they, like all other citizens, will be liable to prosecution.

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KEY SECURITY MESSAGES: DECEMBER 1991

General

- The Government's aims are:-
  - (a) to bring terrorism to an end - from whichever side of the community it comes;
  - (b) to defend the democratically expressed wishes of the people of Northern Ireland against those who try to promote political objectives by violence or the threat of violence; and
  - (c) to create in Northern Ireland the conditions for a just, peaceful and prosperous society in which local people can exercise greater control over their own affairs.
  
- The Army's operational role in Northern Ireland is to support the police in pursuit of the Government's primary aim where and when the security situation makes it necessary.

Reassurance

- Government is implementing effective measures in the political, social and economic fields in order to promote equality of treatment, economic well-being and stable democratic institutions. These supplement and reinforce the Government's security strategy.

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