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22 JUL 1997

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NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE PEACELINES WORKING GROUP

PRESENT: Mr McCusker
Mr McAuley
Mr Raphael
Mr McCartney
Mr Dalzell

1. Mr McCusker explained the background to the development of the Working Group and indicated that he had called a early meeting to try and commission whatever background work was necessary as quickly as possible.
2. It was clear from the discussion that a good deal of information already existed within DOE on the physical characteristics of peacelines and that an extensive amount of knowledge was also held on the Civilian Representative side. Mr McAuley and Mr Dalzell agreed to co-operate to provide a definitive list of existing peacelines by mid-September. It was also agreed that the Working Group should try to extend knowledge of peacelines beyond physical characteristics and the Civilian Representative side will provide further views about social, economic and security aspects of peacelines while DOE, through the BAT Leaders, will provide an analysis on the community perceptions of peacelines; all of this to be done in-house on a confidential basis.
3. On the representation of the RUC, Mr McCartney reported that the matter had been raised with ACC Flannagan who was quite supportive. He had suggested, however, that an approach would need to be made to the Chief Constable inviting the RUC to nominate a representative to the group. After further discussion it was agreed that the invitation to the Chief Constable might best come from NIO and Mr McCartney undertook to discuss the matter further with Mr Steele.

CONFIDENTIAL

ID-363

CONFIDENTIAL

4. It was agreed that the Working Group should meet again in September as soon as the various papers were available, and in the meantime it was agreed that Mr McCusker would circulate, on a confidential basis, copies of the preliminary work carried out by Dr Brendan Murtagh on peacelines as part of a research project for CCRU.

Mary Henry

pp. T MCCUSKER
20 July 1993

cc PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr MacKenzie
Mr Hamilton
Mr Maccabe - B
Miss Doake
Mr McAuley
Mr Marsh - B
Mr Dalzell - B
Mr Morrison
Mr McCartney - B
Mr Raphael

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ID-363

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FROM: T McCUSKER
AS - MBW

cc: PS/Mr Fell B
Mr Ledlie - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Mackenzie
Mr Hamilton
Mr Marsh - B
Mr McAuley
Mr Maccabe - B
Ms Doake
Mr Morrison
Mr Dalzell

DATE: 2 JULY 1993

TO: MR WATKINS

BELFAST PEACELINES

1. This note is just to confirm the conclusions from our meeting on 30 June with Messrs Steele, Mackenzie, Hamilton and Marsh.

2. We considered the possible terms of reference for the sort of study which Mr Fell had signalled to the Secretary of State and agreed that they should be fairly functional and stated as follows:-

"to identify existing peacelines;

to review opportunities in selected/priority cases to remove or replace them by alternative means of separation; and

to make recommendations."

3. We also agreed that I should chair a small group to undertake the work reporting to the 4 Under Secretaries as a Project Steering Group. We also discussed the membership of the group and agreed that it would be particularly useful if the RUC would participate. Mr Steele will raise this with the police and advise me as soon as possible. We agreed that the group would be Tony McCusker (Chair), Simon Marsh,

CONFIDENTIAL

EM 309

CONFIDENTIAL

David McAuley, Bill Morrison, Eric Dalzell and a police representative. We agreed that both PAB and DOE Housing Division would have a significant interest in the debate but that this could be accommodated by copying all papers.

4. We also agreed that it would be useful to try and get the work off the ground before everyone departed on leave and we are trying to make arrangements for the first meeting.

SIGNED

T McCUSKER

CONFIDENTIAL

EM 309

CONFIDENTIAL



c. Mr Mackenzie
Mr McAuley

MISS DOAKE

WORKING PARTY ON PEACELINES

1. Mr Mackenzie and I met with Mr Watkins (Cent Sec) and Mr Steele (NIO) yesterday to consider how we might handle the issues of Peacelines.
2. Cent Sec think it important to set up a small Working Group but they had a grandiose notion of Terms of Reference (see attached). After discussion, we agreed that the small Working Group should be much more functional in nature, concentrating on an identification and description of the existing Peacelines, an assessment of those where action might be taken, and a prioritisation of the existing Peacelines.
3. The Working Group will be chaired by Cent Sec with a representative from Security and Policy Division, the Civil Representative (who builds the Peacelines!) and Mr McAuley. I asked however that you should be copied all the papers and minutes of the meeting so that, from the Housing Policy point of view, we were aware of developments. There could be implications for us and the Housing Executive but Mr McAuley could keep a close eye on interests and, as appropriate, invite you to comment or even attend where Housing Policy might be involved.
4. As you know, this is an issue in which I have a strong personal interest and I would be grateful if you could keep me aware of developments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'NH' with a stylized flourish.

NIGEL HAMILTON
1 July 1993

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RECYCLED PAPER