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CONCLUSIONS of Morning Meeting
held at Stormont Castle on
Monday, 31 July 1972 at 11 00 am

PRESENT

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

- Mr David Howell MP 2
- Sir William Nield 3
- Sir David Holden 4
- Sir Harold Black 5
- Mr K P Bloomfield 6
- Mr J T A Howard-Drake 7
- 8 GOC
- 9 Chief Constable
- 10 Deputy Chief Constable
- 11 Mr K D McDowall
- 12 Mr T M Roberts
- 13 Mr T C Platt
- 14 Mr R M Whalley

Secretariat

- 15 Mr L S Duncan
- 16 Mr N K Finlayson

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1. ARMY OCCUPATION OF NO-GO AREAS

The Secretary of State offered his own and the Prime Minister's congratulations to the GOC on the planning and execution of the successful occupation of all the No-Go areas in the Province with no military and very few civilian casualties. Of the two civilians known to have been killed, one was a gunman and the other a youth who had been on the streets of Londonderry at 4.30 in the morning in spite of public warnings about imminent military action.

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The Chief Constable reported that the RUC was re-established in the Bligh's Lane Post and had also carried out some mobile and foot patrols in other areas of the Bogside. It was recognised that the strengthening of the Police presence was essential but that the Army required the first day for consolidation without added risk of rioting. The Chief Constable was therefore to decide, after he had consulted with the Brigade Commander in Londonderry, how and when this strengthening was to be achieved. The draft of a statement to be issued later in the day about Police activities was approved.

[At this stage Mr Howard-Drake and Mr Bloomfield withdrew to prepare a statement for use by Mr Channon in the House of Commons that afternoon.]

The GOC then outlined the likely course of Army activity in the week of the initial occupation and mentioned the following matters as requiring urgent consideration. wake

- a. Arrest and detention policy - further exploitation of existing law or introduction of new law.
- b. Attitude to Official IRA.
- c. Handling of prisoners - transfer to Great Britain and/or recruitment of additional Prison Officers.
- d. Granting of bail.
- e. Unlawful use of vehicles.
- f. Widespread involvement of juveniles in illegal activities and the need for diversion into other pursuits.
- g. Need for more Magistrates.

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- h. Transfer of trials to Great Britain in the interests of the security of individuals.
- i. Introduction of Special Courts.
- j. Complaints procedure against the Army.
- k. Army and RUC public relations.
- l. Need for jobs to take unemployed men off the streets.

The Secretary of State endorsed the GOC's views about the matters requiring attention and asked for early reports on the provision of a swimming bath and an advance factory for Andersonstown. He asked Sir David Holden to ensure the utmost co-operation between the various agencies responsible for youth work in finding ways and means of occupying the time of those who would otherwise become involved in street scenes.

The Secretary of State outlined the political difficulties which he would experience in re-activating internment or detention and accepted Sir William Nield's suggestion that he himself should present a paper to his colleagues in the following week explaining the problem and pointing out that if existing objections were sustained, early legislative action would be necessary to allow arrests and interrogation to proceed.

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2. PUBLICITY

The Secretary of State approved the content and proposed distribution of the booklet "Bloody Friday" illustrating and describing the effects of the IRA's savage bomb attacks in Belfast on Friday, 21 July.

L S DUNCAN
31 July 1972

Distribution:

These present

17	Lord Windlesham	} NI Office, London
18	Mr Paul Channon MP	
19	Mr F F Steele	
20	Mr J B McAllister	
21	Mr R J S Wilson	
22	Miss Jean Owens	
23	Mr N F Cairncross	
24	Mr W J Smith	
25	Mr R J Seaman	
26	Mr R Stevens	
27	Mr T C Hetherington, AG's Department, London	} All NI Permanent Secretaries
	All NI Permanent Secretaries	

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