

ANNEX A

DEFENSIVE LINES FOR PM'S MEETING WITH JOHN HUME

Excessive use of plastic baton rounds against Nationalists

- Statistics show that more plastic baton rounds fired against Nationalist protesters compared with Loyalists. Scale of violence however completely different. Nationalist attacks directed solely against security forces, many more petrol bombs used. Circumstances in which plastic baton rounds can be fired strictly controlled. Inevitable that large number would have to be used to protect life and control extremely serious disorder (6602 plastic baton rounds fired, 90% against Nationalists).

Nationalists feel betrayed by RUC action

- Whilst accepting that many Nationalists did not like the decision made, the Secretary of State and the Chief Constable have already made it clear that decisions were taken on operational policing grounds only. The RUC act in an important and fair manner in the application of law and order dealing with each situation as it arises.
- Protestant violence during the Drumcree stand-off was met vigorously by the RUC, despite threats and other acts of intimidation to RUC officers.
- If decision had not been reversed, there could have been a dangerous and potentially uncontrollable situation on the Garvaghy Road.

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Why was the Secretary of State not involved in the decision making process in view of the wider political implications of these decisions?

- HMG has always taken the view that the handling of marches and parades are operational policing matters for the Chief Constable who is best placed to take these decisions.
- Impossible for the Secretary of state or myself in our remote positions to have made such decisions.
- if politicians made decisions, accusations of political interference in policing matters could have been made and sustained.

Residents of lower Ormeau Road kept in curfew conditions for many hours to allow Orange parade to pass on 12 July

- Cannot comment on specific operations in detail but the RUC considered that to prevent public disorder, certain actions had to be taken.

Victory for mob rule - Government bound to bully boy tactics

- Chief Constable's second decision in relation to Garvaghy Road can no more be regarded as victory for mob rule than his earlier decision to prohibit it taking its original route.
- Important for rule of law to be accepted by everyone with no exceptions.

- Underlines the requirement for alternative proposals to resolve the issue. I therefore welcome the Secretary of State's initiative to have an independent review of parades.

Dear John,
I am pleased to see
that you are taking
the initiative to have
an independent review
of parades.

Dear John,

MEETING WITH SDLP MP: WEDNESDAY 17 JUL

The Prime Minister is to see John Hume
and Joe Hendron at 3.45 pm tomorrow.
Sir John Chilcot will also be present.

The meeting will inevitably reflect
betrayal and loss of trust in the
strands of the nationalist community
allowed to pass down the country
confidence in the political talks
and faith in the

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