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96

Security Briefings by Garda Commissioner and Chief of Staff

Speaking Note

- [Seen by Townsend]
1. The Garda Commissioner and the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces yesterday provided briefings on the current security situation.
 2. The key message was that there are strong tensions within the republican movement at present on the issue of what future direction it should take. There are some indicators of division, but against the background of the consistent determination of the republican movement to avoid a split, the security assessment at this time is that this may be tactical.
 3. The briefings also covered the recent shootings at Adare and the Manchester bomb. The view was expressed that, in the absence of a renewed ceasefire, further PIRA operations, including robberies, cannot be ruled out.