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Prime Minister

PROSCRIPTION OF THE LOYALIST VOLUNTEER FORCE (LVF) AND  
CONTINUITY ARMY COUNCIL (CAC)

I have seen Mo Mowlam's minute to you dated 2 June in which she proposes to proscribe the LVF and the CAC under the "urgent procedure" provisions of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1996. Although I would agree that proscription gives the police very little operational advantage, there is clearly a case for proscribing these two organisations in Northern Ireland particularly if this would assist the Talks process. I therefore support her proposals.

2 As you know, I have the same powers in Great Britain under the PTA as Mo has under the EPA to proscribe terrorist organisations. I have therefore given thought to whether I should proscribe both organisations in Great Britain as well. I have concluded however that this is not necessary or appropriate at present. The LVF are, I think, unlikely to carry out attacks in Great Britain, although it is conceivable that they might at some future date wish to raise funds or procure arms here. The CAC might wish to mount attacks here but they do not appear at present to have the resources with which to do so. And it would look rather odd to single these two organisations out for proscription given that, with the exception of the IRA and the INLA, none of the other paramilitary organisations in conflict in Northern Ireland is currently proscribed in Great Britain.

3 Should the activists of either group seek to carry out their terrorist activities here they will of course be liable to prosecution for the relevant offences under the PTA and other legislation.

J.P.

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1997

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