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Ireland

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 November 1981

As I have already mentioned to you on the telephone, Dr. Ian Paisley spoke to me on the telephone this afternoon. He did not ask to speak to the Prime Minister.

Dr. Paisley said that he had just heard that another member of the UDR had been killed. Was there to be one victim every day? How many more would have to die before the Government did something about security? He had driven from Belfast to the border and back yesterday. He had seen not one check-point and had encountered only a single armoured personnel carrier with six men in it. The situation had gone beyond what was tolerable. It was "the end of the road". He did not care what the Prime Minister said about him. Abusing him merely "got people's backs up" and generated more support for him.

What did matter was that the people of Ulster were being killed. There would be no holding them. The situation was not helped by statements from the Chief Constable to the effect that police measures had prevented the murder of many other prominent people. This was no consolation to ordinary citizens.

I told Dr. Paisley that I was sure that the Prime Minister would wish me to convey her deep sympathy over the death of yet another member of the UDR. As regards the attitude of the people of Ulster, I told Dr. Paisley that the Prime Minister well understood the emotions which recent events had aroused in the Protestant community. I knew that she hoped that Dr. Paisley himself would play his part in restraining their reaction.

Dr. Paisley replied that I could be assured that he would be urging protests that were non-violent in nature and within the law. But the fact was that the "Chief Magistrate" had ceased to uphold the law. The law itself was king. People were being slaughtered like flies and this had to be brought to an end. (I assumed that the implication of this was that the Government was not enforcing the law and that in these circumstances other

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people would have to enforce it). Ulster was no longer "in a democratic situation". It was not votes that counted. It was a question of who had the most guns, the most explosives and the biggest purse. Dr. Paisley concluded by asking me to tell the Prime Minister that "it cannot go on".

I have described the above conversation to the Prime Minister. She was content with the line I took.

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