



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

1. AJS.
Content? Agreed as amended.
1750, MR 19/12

2. C.R.
Type for PM
cc I.G.

M Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

7 December 1981

Dear Mike

MAD
9/12

... In your letter of 30 November, you asked us to provide a draft reply to the Rev Dr Ian Paisley's letter of 25 November to the Prime Minister. The draft which I enclose has, as you requested, been discussed with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Cabinet Office.

Dr Paisley's letter is more of a speech than a request for information or reassurance and leaps to deductions from false premises. There are already indications that his extravagant language, even by Northern Ireland standards, is causing disquiet among Protestant opinion which might otherwise sympathise with his views. The draft reply is designed to exploit this tendency and therefore does not attempt a lengthy or sympathetic exposition of the Government's security policy. If the Prime Minister were minded to go into detail, it would be better to do so in response to a Unionist or other moderate rather than give Paisley the credit for eliciting substantial statements.

The Prime Minister may find the following background information of interest. There is inevitably criticism of security policy and of the Chief Constable in Northern Ireland. A recent vote of confidence in the Chief Constable by the Central Committee of the Northern Ireland Police Federation was passed by just 10 votes to 9. We know however that a large number of members of the Federation are very unhappy about the way the vote was taken - there had not been the normal prior consultation with their membership. No doubt some members of the force would be in favour of internment, as Mr Eldon Griffiths has claimed publicly. But overall, the Secretary of State is satisfied that the Chief Constable does not face serious problems within his own force.

The references to policy and UDR weapons are obscure: they have what they need for operational duties, and although some members of the UDR do not like the weapons issued to them for their own protection, they know that they could, as some do, apply to the police for a firearm certificate to permit them to possess different weapons. There is nothing to suggest that any of the murders would have been averted by issuing higher calibre weapons.

The offer of the assistance of the "third force" to complement the RUC and UDR, though phrased aggressively, may be consistent with some indications which we have seen that Paisley is retreating from his earlier claims about their role, partly because he does not really know what to do with them. By no means all of the third

force or its sympathisers are Paisley's own political supporters and, with the Secretary of State's encouragement, the Chief Constable is talking to a number of people, particularly from border areas, who may be in a position to influence actual and potential members of the third force to apply their energies in a way which would not infringe the law, would not hinder the efforts of the security forces, would not be seen as a threat by the minority community but would provide a useful way of sifting low grade local intelligence in a realistic manner.

Yours sincerely
Julie Stephens

S W BOYS SMITH

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE.....

To The Rev Dr Ian Paisley MP The Parsonage 17 Cyprus Avenue BELFAST BT5 5NT (Full Postal Address)	Enclosures	Copies to be sent to (Full Address, if Necessary)
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LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY Prime Minister
 (Name of Signatory)

In your letter of 25 November you repeat your public criticisms of security policy in Northern Ireland and of the Chief Constable, again propose a "Third Force", and argue that the London Dublin Summits be ended. ^{claim} [You also state that I am responsible for the murders of members of the security forces by the IRA and that I share the aims of the IRA.] ^(Not worth including if it is not to be refuted somewhere) MAR

Security policy in Northern Ireland is to bring an end to terrorism. There is no restraint upon the activities of the security forces other than the requirement to act within the law. I have full confidence in the security forces and their professional leadership; so I believe ^{have} do the vast majority of all those in Northern Ireland who earnestly wish for an end to the violence there. There is no place for self-appointed groups seeking to ^{exercise} share authority which can in law ^{be exercised only by} only attach to the security forces. The best assistance which members of the public can ^{give} render is in ^{to provide} the provision of information to the police.

The communiqué issued after my meeting with Dr FitzGerald on 6 November stated, in reference to the constitutional position of Northern Ireland, "The Prime Minister affirmed, and the Taoiseach agreed, that any change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland would require the consent of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland". This commitment by the Prime Minister of the Republic to the principle of consent and his acceptance that Northern Ireland is the unit within which that principle is to operate shows that the apprehensions which you are trying to foment are unfounded. The ~~publication of the Joint Studies themselves, (excepting that on security)~~ ^{demonstrately} demonstrated that they dealt with particular measures of co-operation between two neighbouring sovereign states. The Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council will facilitate that co-operation, especially in security and economic matters. The relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic are matters for the Government, Parliament and people of the whole United Kingdom and there is clear support in the United Kingdom for the policies set out in the communiqué. Her Majesty's Government will not be deflected from ^{the} ~~these~~ ^{described above} policies by calumny or abuse.

which with the exception of the study on security have all been published,