

Monday
22 March 1971

Chichester Clark has resigned over the weekend. Emergency Cabinet 1130. PM reported state of play. Chichester Clark's original intention was to make a statement attributing his resignation to the failure of Westminster to comply with his request for help on Northern Ireland security. This would have been untrue. The only request we have not met was that for platoon positions in Catholic Areas. This was against the Military judgment as the Troops *vs* would have been deprived of their mobility. It would have taken 17 additional companies to occupy Ardoyne Area in this way and at the end the tactical position of the Troops would have been worse than at the beginning. Chichester Clark had to admit this. The [?]views of Carrington & Baker was in response to a further request for a *nθv* from Westminster. Chichester Clark *k kc* [*?couldn't continue*] and his resignation was inevitable. Northern Ireland Cabinet repeated the old story but on being asked whether they had any other specific request to make which had not been met other than for Troop positions inside Cabinet Areas they replied in the negative. Statement today in both houses. ...

Chichester Clark v rsi or t w/e mje/ Cab 1130
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~~Jeffreys rsi att e-v t Sm fm~~