

B.R.

*8.30 Tues. evening  
at HMC  
Just necessary to  
Wed. 10.30 to  
V. early  
Thurs.  
morning*

PRIME MINISTER

Lord Brookeborough telephoned this morning to say that he hoped that you would agree to meet him this week to discuss the security situation in Northern Ireland and County Fermanagh in particular. He said that the murder yesterday in Newtown Butler was of the third member of his son's UDR Platoon to die, and that it was the fifty-fourth unsolved murder in the area. He said that he was very worried that Ian Paisley was already exploiting the situation in Fermanagh, and would now do so to an even greater extent. He wanted you to know that there were other strands of opinion among the Unionists.

He said that he had already been in touch with the authorities in Northern Ireland, and that he hoped that Giles Shaw would come down to the area himself; but he thought that the time had come when he should ask for a few minutes of your time.

He said that he would be coming over late on Tuesday and would be in London on Wednesday and Thursday. I took delivery of the message and promised him an answer tomorrow (Monday).

I imagine that you will be inclined to see Lord Brookeborough. I have talked to Humphrey Atkins' Private Secretary about all of this. He said that Mr. Atkins will be having a security meeting tomorrow afternoon and then a meeting with the GOC, the Chief Constable and Maurice Oldfield, so that they could supply you with an up to date assessment of the position if you did choose to meet Lord Brookeborough in the middle of this week. He added that there was a certain amount of unhealthy competition for Protestant sympathy from some people in the official Unionists, and that Lord Brookeborough had been saying things to Mr. Atkins along the lines that "he could not hold his people back much longer".

You might like to have a word with Michael Alexander in the morning about all of this before deciding exactly how to respond to

/Lord Brookeborough?

Lord Brookeborough?

I should add that Lord Brookeborough told me that he had also been in touch with Ian Gow.

*Delwin R. Jones*

*Duty Clerk*

*P.P.*

N.J. Sanders  
8 June 1980