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PROTECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER TO DUBLIN ON 8 DECEMBER 1980

INTRODUCTION

1. This brief supplements the administrative arrangements issued by P&CD and is subject to last minute change.

THE THREAT

2. The meeting in Dublin is fraught with special risks. There has been some advance publicity (none of it officially ascribed), the subjects to be discussed are particularly sensitive at the moment, and there have been threats of violent attack against the Prime Minister and senior Cabinet Ministers. The Irish Government are aware of the special risks and are planning counter measures.

3. The 'H' Block propaganda campaign has so far not generated a great deal of interest in the Republic or, in Dublin, but a large-scale demonstration is planned for Saturday 6 December. The assessment is that this demonstration will be a great deal better planned and could well lead to a sharply increased threat.

COUNTER-TERRORIST MEASURES

4. With this in mind, the Irish have made contingency plans aimed at giving an impression that the visiting delegation will arrive at the Military Air Base and travel by road to one of a number of possible venues. They have organised Press accreditation to support that plan. The actual plan is for the delegation to arrive at Dublin main airport, where there are good navigational aids for bad weather landings and take-offs, then to lift the entire party by twin-engined Sikorsky helicopter direct to the Dublin Castle grounds. The Irish will also have the road journey covered from Dublin Airport to the Castle in case of weather conditions precluding the helicopter flight. Access control to the Castle will be strictly enforced.

5. Travel plans are as set out in P&CD administration arrangements.

6. The PM and senior Ministers are to travel in an RAF aircraft, thence by helicopter until returning to the airport (road journeys are to be avoided where possible because 8 December is a Church feast day and roads will be jammed, with possibility of demos).

7. VHF radio equipment is to be provided for secure communications between the Chancery and the Private Office in the Castle and the safe hand cars moving between these two locations.

8. In the event of a delayed take-off due to bad weather in Ireland or in London, the delegation will remain within the Castle where the Irish will provide a degree of comfort to enable delegates to get some rest and be fed. It is strongly advised

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that the PM and Ministers should not leave the protective security ring round the Castle and that officials should leave only in cases of greatest need.

COUNTER-ESPIONAGE MEASURES

9. The delegation offices at Dublin Castle will, of course, be manned throughout the visit. All classified material will be returned either to the Chancery or with delegates to the aircraft on the return journey.

10. Safe hand deliveries carried out by Embassy staff are to be arranged using two suites of boxes already supplied. Details of the deliveries will be given in the final administrative arrangements.

11. Totally secure speech facilities are not available at the Castle because engineers are not available to mount the counter-measures. Security speech facilities up to SECRET are available in the designated Confidential Offices in Chancery. There is hard intelligence that the use of telephones is extremely dangerous.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

12. The Irish authorities (the Garda) retain overall command of protective security operations. To assist them and to provide a liaison and coordination point, a Conference Security Officer will be in Dublin and in contact with Metropolitan Police close protection officers.

Security Department

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