



10 DOWNING STREET

3rd June, 1980

You handed to me, on the 20th of last month a Memorandum which was prepared following your tour of the border area on what I think must have been 17th May (not 24th May as stated in the Memorandum).

I just wanted you to know that the Prime Minister saw this Memorandum, before her meeting with the Irish Prime Minister on 21st May.

Ian Gow

James H. Molyneaux, JP, MP.

MR. ALEXANDER

IAN

2
ms

No reply from the PM needed?

MS
27/5

Jim Molyneux gave this to Ian Gow before Questions today. The Prime Minister has not seen it yet.

Presumably the intention was that she would see it before Mr. Haughey's visit tomorrow.

May I leave it to you to feed it into her?

Subject to Ian's views, I doubt that a reply is necessary.

MS

Prime Minister.

20 May, 1980.

This does not of course tally with what the NIO say about the general level of security cooperation from the Republic.

MS
20v.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

ON SATURDAY, 24 MAY, 1980, I TOURED THE AREA ON THE IRISH REPUBLIC SIDE OF THE FRONTIER, OPPOSITE THE COUNTIES OF FERMANAGH, TYRONE AND ARMAGH, AT ONE POINT PENETRATING TO A DEPTH OF ELEVEN MILES.

IN CONTRAST WITH THE LEVEL OF SECURITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND, THERE WAS A MARKED LACK OF ACTIVITY BY THE REPUBLIC'S ARMY OR POLICE.

IN TWO LOCATIONS, REPUTED TO BE TRAINING GROUNDS FOR THE IRA, THERE WAS NO CHECK ON THE MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES LIKELY TO BE USED BY TERRORISTS.

AT ONE IRISH ARMY BASE, SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE AT A VERY LOW LEVEL AND THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT TROOPS WERE SUFFICIENTLY ALERT TO ENABLE THEM TO DEAL WITH TERRORISTS GROUPING PRIOR TO LAUNCHING ATTACKS ON NORTHERN IRELAND OR RETURNING FROM CROSS-BORDER STRIKES.

IN REGARD TO CLOSURE OF FRONTIER CROSSINGS IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE AUTHORITIES IN THE REPUBLIC WERE FAILING TO CO-OPERATE IN MAINTAINING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UNITED KINGDOM SECURITY FORCES. IT WAS APPARENT THAT NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO PREVENT THE CONSTRUCTION OF BY-PASS TRACKS AND IN SOME CASES THE REMOVAL OF OBSTACLES, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD CLEARLY BE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF CROSSING POINTS TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE SECURITY SURVEILLANCE AND CUSTOMS CONTROL.