

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

DE LOREAN

The Attorney General telephoned me this evening, saying that, following the Prime Minister's meeting this morning, he had consulted the Northern Ireland DPP about whether the RUC investigation into the affairs of the de Lorean car company seemed likely to produce evidence of any criminal activities.

The answer he had received was that it seemed unlikely that it would do so. The only major question mark arose from one document which suggested that a payment of £3 million to the Lotus company for work on design of the de Lorean had been paid twice. The RUC were likely to ask the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce to help them in investigating this, but it was unlikely that the payment had been made twice, and the Bank records indicated only one payment. There were other minor matters such as the use of company funds for decorations in Mr. de Lorean's house, but these seemed more likely to be objects of shareholders' complaints rather than grounds for criminal charges.

I reported this to the Prime Minister.

F.R.B.

15 December 1982