

NOTE OF HOME SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MR. FAULKNER
AT THE HOME OFFICE ON MONDAY, 6TH DECEMBER

20 1/2 APPENDIX A

From PRSM 15/458A

Present: Home Secretary
Mr. Woodfield
Mr. Angel

Mr. Faulkner
Mr. Ransay

Handwritten notes:
Mack
H. J. G.
The Appendix
Mack
K. J. G.
Mack
L. Bernard
A. J.

Mr. Faulkner said that he would be very surprised if the I.R.A. were able to keep up their terrorist campaign in Belfast beyond February. On the political front, Mr. Faulkner found unanimous support within his own Party from both left and right. He would be confident of the outcome of an election if one were held now. Paisley was losing support all over the Province. It was important that ideas such as the proposal that a united Ireland should come about within 15 years should not gain currency. They would only encourage the I.R.A. to carry on. Public opinion in Great Britain needed to accept that Northern Ireland would remain a part of the United Kingdom. Mr. Faulkner believed that he still had substantial Catholic support though this could not be vocal because of intimidation. He stressed that the political initiatives which had been taken had not yet had an opportunity to work.

Mr. Faulkner said that Mr. McGurk, the proprietor of the pub which was blown up at the week-end, had been interviewed by the police in hospital and had said that there were no strangers in the bar on the night of the explosion. The army also discovered that the bomb went off on the ground floor. Both point strongly to the likelihood that the bomb was carried by the I.R.A. rather than Protestant extremists. Mr. Faulkner had asked the R.U.C. to find out whether anything was known about the associations of the people who were killed or injured.

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