



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 June 1984

Ulster Special Constabulary Association

Thank you for your letter of 6 June to John Coles commenting on the teletext which the Prime Minister had received from the Ulster Special Constabulary Association.

The Prime Minister has seen your letter, and was grateful for the background information provided. She agrees that no reply to the teletext is required.

David Barclay

D.A. Hill, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

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CCPC



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
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Prime Minister^(e)

J Coles, Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

You asked about
the background to
the attached telegram.

6 June 1984

DMS
6/6

ms

Dear John

ULSTER SPECIAL CONSTABULARY ASSOCIATION

You sent John Lyon a minute on 23 May asking for advice about a telegram which the Prime Minister had received from the Ulster Special Constabulary Association. You particularly asked what had prompted this message.

There has been a steady build up in terrorist violence by the Provisional IRA in Northern Ireland, partly as a response to the Forum Report and partly as a destabilising influence in the run-up to the European Elections. On Friday 18 May four deaths resulted from two separate (and we believe unconnected) terrorist incidents. Two policemen were killed by a landmine explosion in South Armagh in the morning and two soldiers were killed by a vehicle booby-trap at Enniskillen in the afternoon. It was this juxtaposition of crimes which, we believe, caused the USC Association to send this telegram.

The Association itself was originally formed to try to prevent the disbandment of the old Special Constabulary - the B Specials. Having failed in its purpose the size and the influence of the Association declined rapidly and it, today, represents few people and has little influence. The few people the Association does represent are unlikely to be swayed by reasoned arguments or convinced by a factual exposition of the success of the Government's security policies. Any such attempt could be used, or rather misused, by the group to discredit the Government's policies.

I would suggest that, in the circumstances, a reply would be neither necessary nor desirable.

Yours ever

Deel

D A HILL

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06 JUN 1984

