

MO 19/3/15V

PRIME MINISTER

Se Re Mula 26

## NORTHERN IRELAND: AGENT RESETTLEMENT

In my minute of 5th February 1986, I reported the start of another resettlement case of a former Army agent in Northern Ireland. The agent was moved to the mainland and has been under Army protection ever since.

2. Unfortunately the man has disappeared from the protected accommodation and we suspect he may be intending to be reunited with his common law wife and family. We assess that he is an extremely high priority target for the Provisional IRA and that he will probably be killed if he were to return to the Province and is discovered. The relevant agencies at the ports and airports have been alerted that he may try to enter Northern Ireland; the Security Service and the RUC have also been informed.

- 3. The threat to our resettlement operations from this disappearance is not significant. But the effect on future operations if the agent were killed could be considerable in terms of discouraging other informers.
- 4. I shall keep you informed of any further significant developments.
- 5. I am sending copies of this minute to the Secretaries of State for the Home Department and Northern Ireland and to Sir Robert Armstrong for their information.

(A thered by the Deferce Secretary and signed in his absence)

Ministry of Defence

2 May 1986