

FROM:



Police Division
26 November 1997

cc: PS/ [redacted] (B&L) - O
PS/PUS (B&L) - O

Mr [redacted]
Mr [redacted]
Mr [redacted]
Mr [redacted]
Mr [redacted]
Mr [redacted]
Mrs [redacted]
Mr [redacted]
Mr [redacted]
Mr [redacted]

1. Mr Steele - O [Recommended. Some amendments JMS 26/11]
2. PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - O

MEETING WITH THE HAMILL FAMILY - MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER

After the meeting with Diane Hamill and others on Monday the Secretary of State requested a draft letter to send to the Chief Constable and DPP asking them to give details, as far as possible, on the points made by the Hamills. Draft letters to the Chief Constable and the Attorney General are attached. I suggest that the Secretary of State should write to the Attorney General rather than the Director of Public Prosecutions (NI), who is responsible to the Attorney, because we know from past experience that this route is more likely to bear fruit.

It is worth mentioning that the Attorney General and Chief Constable are likely to be very uneasy about any response issuing to the Hamills before the criminal investigative process has been completed.

This is why the draft asks the Chief Constable for a "report". This makes the request one under section 15(2) of the Police (NI) Act 1970. This states that "the Chief Constable shall, whenever so required by the (Secretary of State) ..., submit to him ... reports in writing on such matters as may be specified in the requirement".

Signed

