

**Cover sheet**

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[Redacted]

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HN344

27 May 1972

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Detective Inspector HN294 has informed me that DC HN344 who has succeeded in getting close to Privacy and Co of the Northern Minorities Defence Force, has been invited to go to Londonderry by car on Thursday 1 June. Route at present is not known.

All told there will be 4 persons travelling - Privacy; Privacy; one other who so far is not known; and HN344 4

The object of the trip I am told by HN294 is for the party to meet "Some of the lads from both Factions" 5

The question arises of course as to whether we should allow HN344 to go into the dangerous Bogside and Creggan 'no-go' areas. I have questioned HN294 closely on the matter and he is convinced that HN344 is held in high esteem by Privacy and could handle this new situation quite easily. He points out the advantages and benefits that would accrue from such a trip in that our officer's stock would be even higher within NMDF thereafter.

The temptations are great and whilst generally speaking I am in favour of HN344 being granted clearance to go ahead, I am perturbed over the open enmity that exists in the Bogside/Creggan between the 'Provisional' and 'Official' Factions at present over the sadistic torture and murder of the local lad - William BEST of the Royal Irish Rangers - whilst home on leave.

If Privacy is in fact sending over this small delegation to concert with both sides of the IRA then I would like to know a bit more as to what is at the back of his mind. In my estimation, he is just a "cowboy" and if there is any resentment in Londonderry towards

[Redacted]



him and his little group by either faction of the IRA the consequences could be quite disastrous.

Are we therefore justified in allowing one of our own officers to enter such an area which is outside our jurisdiction for a start, quite apart from the danger to which he will be exposed? Is this a function for a Metropolitan Police officer?

Taking everything into consideration I feel that we should  
10 instruct [redacted] HN294 to find some acceptable reason or excuse for  
11 [redacted] HN344 to put forward to [redacted] Privacy and Co for his non-acceptance of the proffered trip to Northern Ireland.

I have told [redacted] HN294 that I would discuss the matter with you.

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M.B.R.

Commander

*Discussed with Dae*

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*D.A. [redacted] HN294 informs that [redacted] HN344 should make some reason. This not to travel to N. Ireland.*

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*ide Rudge - Refused to [redacted] [redacted] Co.*

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*S/S 30/5/72*

