

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Blalock
Mr Duxton
Mr Wyatt
Mr Blatherwick
Miss MacGlashan

MR FERGUSON

THE UDA

Following the murder of Eugene Mulholland, claimed by the UFF, and the latter's reported "death list" of Republicans, there have been fresh calls for the proscription of the UDA, on the alleged grounds that the two organisations are one and the same. Gerry Pitt is reported to have said that proscription should be the new Secretary of State's "most urgent task", and the Alliance Party, who have pressed the point before, may take it up in their meeting with him today.

2. Unless these calls for proscription are to continue - which they may not unless there are more sectarian murders claimed by the UFF - I would not be disposed to offer Ministers unsolicited advice on the subject. It may well be, however, that we shall be asked for advice, particularly if the Alliance Party raise the matter today. I think it would therefore be worth your dusting off our previous submission on the matter and considering whether anything has changed since then in the balance of the argument. At first sight it does not seem to me that it has. In particular, I see that, following the UFF claim over the Mulholland murder, the UDA have reportedly denied any connection with the other organisation. In terms of the politics of proscription, we have always regarded the existence of such denials as more important than their accuracy.

C.D.

C DAVENPORT

Law and Order Division
Stormont House

22 September 1981

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