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METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH THREAT ASSESSMENT

The Chief Constable
Greater London
SPECIAL BRANCH
Metropolitan Police
Police Budget
Housing Estate
London SW1A 2AA

13th May 1983

Rt. Hon James CALLAGHAN, MP

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13/5/83
Paged
at 2:11:54

1. In accordance with instructions received from Chief Superintendent 'A' Squad, a current threat assessment has been prepared in respect of a former Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. James CALLAGHAN, MP.
2. Mr CALLAGHAN has previously been the subject of threats by Irish Republican extremist elements. In September 1979 he was reported to be a "legitimate" target, by what was claimed to be a PIRA source in the left-wing newspaper, "Socialist Worker". In July 1981, "An Phoblacht/Republican News" recalled his responsibility, as Home Secretary, for sending the troops to Northern Ireland some twelve years previously. There has been no indication since that date that he is intended as a future target.
3. As far as the overall picture is concerned, the level of threat of Irish terrorist attack occurring on the mainland is higher at present than for some time past. Although he was undoubtedly vulnerable during the time of his actual involvement with Northern Irish matters, it is fair to assume that more recent events, especially that of [REDACTED] handling of the hunger-strike affair, have tended to accelerate Mr CALLAGHAN's passage towards comparative obscurity.
4. In the absence of specific intelligence, it would appear that Mr CALLAGHAN is presently at no greater risk than any other prominent British politician who has been involved with Irish matters during the past decade.

SB(B)

Chief Superintendent

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