

Tuesday

7 March 1972

Cabinet on Northern Ireland involving top secret Home Office Paper.

Spoke strongly against what was proposed but said there was a case for a SSNI [*Secretary of State for Northern Ireland*] in Westminster Cabinet and for transferring law and order if it would not unleash a Protestant backlash. However I think it would do just that.

In the context of the recent murders and outrages it would be impossible to undertake this without making our own Party position most difficult. We would I think lose all cooperation from all the Unionist MPs and some of our own supporters in the House which might well jeopardise our EEC legislation.

Not a very polished or popular performance on my part.

Cab o N.I nr. Hp skt H.O Pa
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 bklZ © hww i Ok it d, do JfA.

nt Hete v t rs- Mds a outrages b b mpob t Utk
 A ww mkr on Party poj mj ofk. w d i tk lose
 l Kpj fm l t Dnf Mds a so v r on Spos nt
 A wh mi l Jpris v EEC JfJ

n a v plZ or pop Jfme/ o mi pl.