

The Gardiner Report will be published in Parliament later this week. The Government have to do this by law. This is a report to the Government by an independent committee. It is not ^{really} a statement of Government policy. The Report deals with detention, special category prisoners and the Emergency Provisions Act generally. The Government will make up their own minds what to do about these questions. The level of violence will be a main factor. As reported in the Press the Government are already talking to Loyalist organisation. They will also wish to talk to political parties. The Government also expect to be questioned in Parliament about a parole scheme for Northern Ireland. They are considering this very carefully and will say so.

POL 35/69(1)

We know that the Provisionals fear that we may be stringing them along and that they may be looking for evidence of this. On the contrary we think we and they have a common interest in bringing the campaign of violence to an end as quickly as possible. Nevertheless it is a fact that a week's violence has slowed everything up. We have to carry the public along with us and this is now getting harder. If the Provisionals ^{es} stop violence they must not now expect immediately to raise the process of talking to new levels. We have got to get back to where we were with the same representatives and to take it from there. We are not at this stage able to meet Mr David O'CONNELL himself. But we assume that he is now personally directing the dialogue. Is this so?

H.M.G. to B.D.

P35/69(2)

Dated by ROB's papers
as 30/1/75.

ROB's paper does not have
the last paragraph.

GARDINER REPORT
Pub. 30/1/75.

NB. 3RD ANNIV. OF BUDDY SUNDAY.

1) Abolish Special Category Status.

2) Build cellular prison accomm
(H. Block).

See P.T. pg. 184/185

This therefore belongs to the
P.A.C. minutes.