NOTE OF A MEETING WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE HELD ON 07 SEPTEMBER 2001 AT 3.55 PM (VENUE: RUC HQ)

The Chief Constable told me he had two issues he wished to discuss, one of which was Omagh. He then questioned the limits to our investigation and talked about the Murder Review document. He said he had no difficulty with us having it but he needed to know what we wanted to see it for. He then asked whether we intended to investigate Omagh, which I took to be a flippant comment. He told me there had been friction between McArthur and McVicker. He said this was a new process for the Royal Ulster Constabulary and that is why they had asked Dan Crompton to get his representatives to review the process. He said it engendered resentment from the team because there wasn't that sort of maturity within the Royal Ulster Constabulary. I saw McVicker to be the man who should see the investigation through although that would be contrary to normal practice. He was recommending a certain level of resourcing which could not be afforded. *"I had given a commitment to the family that no stone will be left unturned, anyhow nothing would be lost in time so we thought come September after the marching season was over we would deal with it."* Then there was a big internal debate, should McArthur continue as the Senior Investigating Officer that is what was being suggested to me. There were linked incidents, maybe not linked but similar. The Chief Constable described McVicker as a good and tenacious detective, also McArthur was good but there was friction between them. He then said, *"I am still deciding how best to take this review forward."* The Chief Constable said he had asked McArthur to set down in writing what their investigation strategy is and to ensure me that no stone has been left unturned when everything in the Review is being addressed. He then said Brian McVicker had his ticket for the end of the year meaning he was going to retire.

A further discussion took place about the Review document and I explained to the Chief Constable why we wanted it, that we are looking at intelligence and the action that could have been taken, could the bomb have been prevented, could intelligence have opened lines of enquiry out for the Senior Investigating