



Press Release

7/7 Memorial Lecture, 2013 – Ian Blair ‘The Legacy of July 2005’

The 7/7 Memorial Trust is delighted to announce that the former Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ian, Lord Blair of Boughton will be delivering this year's 7/7 Memorial Lecture on the evening of Monday 1st July at The Great Hall, British Medical Association in Tavistock Square from 6pm.

Lord Blair was, of course, the officer commanding the Metropolitan Police on that day and the weeks and months that followed. As well as paying tribute to the victims of the atrocity of 7/7, he will reflect on all of the events of that bitter summer, on its heroes and villains and the responses of the public, of commentators, politicians and the police. He will seek to explore the lessons learned, and give his views on what was done right and wrong and what we will do differently now as a result. Against the poignant backdrop of the Boston Bombings, after which their police chief made public the fact that he had learned much from the Met's counter-terrorism experience, Ian is uniquely placed, to provide an analysis of what were London's darkest days since the end of the World War II.

‘ I am honoured to be asked to follow the excellent presentation given last year by Helena Kennedy and hope that I can live up to her faultless delivery. Perhaps the best summary of what I intend to say would be to ask whether the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was right to say in August 2005 that ‘the rules of the game have changed’? Did they? Have they stayed changed? Are they right now?

The lecture series was conceived to provide a lasting positive remembrance to those who lost their lives across the four sites, and to the survivors and witnesses and the emergency services. It addresses themes of humanity, tolerance and the human cost of conflict, with the invited speakers specifically chosen for their authority, experience and activity in these fields.

The inaugural lecture was delivered by Helena Kennedy QC, Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws in July 2012.

7/7 Memorial, Tavistock Square

Since 7/7 there has been a growing body of support for a memorial in the location most closely associated with the bombings/attacks and which had originally been chosen as the site for the national memorial.

The Trust is currently developing proposals for a new site specific memorial in Tavistock Square and needs to raise a sum of £12,000 before the lecture in order to complete Phase 1.

Those interested in supporting this area of work, can donate by visiting:-
<http://www.tavistocksquarememorialtrust.org/donate.html>

Notes for editors:**Event Details**

Guest speaker: Ian, Lord Blair of Boughton, QPM

Venue: The Great Hall, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JP

Date: Monday 1st July, 2013

Start: From 6.00pm, with the speeches and lecture being delivered from 7.30pm

Anticipated close: 9.30pm

Lord Blair

From 2005 to 2008, Ian, Lord Blair of Boughton was the most senior police officer in Britain, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police ('Scotland Yard'), having been the Deputy Commissioner for the preceding five years. In these posts, he was widely regarded as a leading exponent of police reform. He led the Metropolitan Police through the terrorist bombings of 2005.

He has lectured and consulted extensively in the United Kingdom, the United States, the Middle East and India, where he has five times been the co-director of a strategic training course designed by the University of Cambridge for the command ranks of the Indian Police Service, focussing on modernisation, legitimacy and change management.

He holds an MA in English Language and Literature from Oxford University. He is a member of the faculties of criminology at the universities of both Oxford and Cambridge and has been a visiting professor at both New York University and John Jay College, New York. He is an Honorary Student (Fellow) of Christ Church, Oxford and has been a Visiting Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford and an Honorary Professor at Thames Valley University. He is about to be awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws at the University of Lincoln.

He was knighted in 2003 and in 2009 was elevated to be a crossbench peer in the House of Lords. He is also a trustee of the Tutu Foundation, the St Paul's Cathedral Trust, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the Longford Trust and the Woolf Institute for the study of Abrahamic Faiths.

Ian will be available for interview and there will be a full transcript and video of his speech available online.

7/7 Memorial Trust

The 7/7 Memorial Trust was established in 2012 with the support of the 7/7 community to campaign for and secure a new 7/7 memorial in Tavistock Square, the site most closely associated with the events of that day and to provide a positive remembrance in the form of an annual lecture.

<http://www.tavistocksquarememorialtrust.org>

For further information please contact:

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Philip will be available for interviews.