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TO IMMEDIATE CERTAIN MISSIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES  
GUIDANCE TELEGRAM NUMBER 113 OF 2 OCTOBER 1979

SECURITY COORDINATOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER, HAS APPOINTED SIR MAURICE OLDFIELD GCMG CBE AA SECURITY COORDINATOR, WITH EFFECT FROM 8 OCTOBER. SIR MAURICE OLDFIELD WILL ASSIST THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN IMPROVING THE COORDINATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IN NORTHERN IRELAND. HE WILL BE BASED IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND BE SUPPORTED BY A JOINT STAFF DRAWN FROM THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY, THE ARMY AND THE CIVIL SERVICE WHICH WILL BE OPERATIONAL 24 HOURS A DAY.

LINE TO TAKE

2. IF ASKED WHY SIR MAURICE WAS APPOINTED, YOU SHOULD SAY UNATTRIBUTABLY THAT HE WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE OF HIS OUTSTANDING QUALITIES OF MIND, PERSONALITY AND INTEGRITY. HE IS CONSIDERED THE BEST MAN AVAILABLE TO HELP THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO ACHIEVE THE GOVERNMENT'S SECURITY OBJECTIVES. YOU MAY ALSO SAY UNATTRIBUTABLY THAT HE HAS THE BREADTH OF VISION, THE FORESIGHT AND THE DRIVE TO HELP THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND TO GET THE BEST OUT OF THE SECURITY FORCES IN DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS WHERE QUICK AND COORDINATED DECISION TAKING IS ESSENTIAL AND TO DEVELOP SECURITY STRATEGY IN COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL POLICY FOR THE PROVINCE.

3. IF ASKED ABOUT BRITISH PRESS REPORTS THAT A FORMER HEAD OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE HAS BEEN CHOSEN YOU SHOULD NOT COMMENT. ANY PARTICULAR PAST EXPERIENCE HE MAY HAVE HAD IS INCIDENTAL. THE APPOINTMENT IS BASED ON HIS OUTSTANDING PERSONAL QUALITIES, AND NOT BECAUSE OF ANY PARTICULAR EXPERTISE AND



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EXPERIENCE THAT HE MAY HAVE ACQUIRED IN THE PAST.

4. IF ASKED IF THIS MEANS AN INCREASE IN INTELLIGENCE EFFORT YOU SHOULD SAY ALSO UNATTRIBUTABLY THAT THE SECURITY FORCES IN NORTHERN IRELAND NATURALLY DEPEND HEAVILY ON INTELLIGENCE IN DEALING WITH TERRORISM. THE MORE THEY HAVE THE BETTER. BUT THIS IS NOT THE REASON FOR SIR MAURICE OLDFIELD'S APPOINTMENT. THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM CONTINUES TO BE THE EXTENSION OF NORMAL POLICING BY THE RUC THROUGHOUT NORTHERN IRELAND. THE ARMY WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN SUPPORT OF THE POLICE. AND THE SECURITY COORDINATOR'S PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TO IMPROVE THE COORDINATION OF THE EFFORTS OF THE POLICE AND THE ARMY.

5. FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND, TO BE DRAWN UPON AS NECESSARY, SEE RETRACT 57402 TO CERTAIN POSTS.

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