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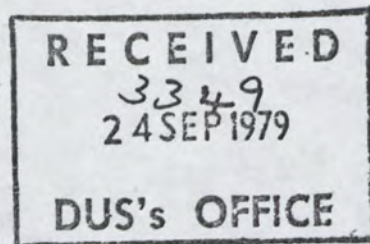
PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

SIR FRANK COOPER GCB CMG

PUS/79/870
30/2

24 September 1979

K R Stowe Esq CB
Northern Ireland Office
Great George Street



Dear Sir,

SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR

I should like to put it firmly on record that we are in no doubt that the Security Co-ordinator would act on behalf of the SSNI, that he is accountable to SSNI, and that he would have no powers of Command.

Equally, we would expect him to speak and act with the authority of SSNI, that it would be publicly known that he had the central role under SSNI in the Security field, that he had authority to call meetings (where necessary involving the Chief Constable and/or the GOC and relevant agencies) and to call for information and plans in all areas affecting security - including in particular intelligence and the forward plans of the Security Forces. He would be entitled to visit the Security Forces as he thought appropriate. He will concern himself with the security aspects of public relations which will have an important part to play in the Co-ordinator's field of activity.

We also attach great importance to his having powers of initiative and to his being required to examine security policy targets and priorities. We regard it as of primary importance that he should concentrate on security matters and not on issues which should be dealt with by the normal administrative arrangements. The joint staff of the Security Co-ordinator will be responsible to him and the level of the most senior members of that staff should be 1-star.

We recognise that security relations with the Republic of Ireland are at present under review. We believe that the Security Co-ordinator should take the lead, in conjunction with those concerned, in advising SSNI on the improvements needed and that the way should be left open for him to play a direct and personal part in securing any such improvements.

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Finally, subject to the points made above, we agreed the draft press announcement as at present drafted and stressed the need for it to be adhered to firmly in London and Northern Ireland by all concerned.

Yours wv.

Frank Cooper

FRANK COOPER

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Mr Whitmore

With Compliments

K.R. STOWE

R.

M. Whitmore
No. 10.

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24 September 1979

DRAFT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, with the approval of the Prime Minister, has appointed ----- as Security Co-ordinator. The appointment will take effect from [] [].

2. ----- will assist the Secretary of State in improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of the security effort in Northern Ireland. He will [operate *be based* from and reside] 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.

[Personal Background]

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SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR : DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE

1. The Security Co-ordinator in the Northern Ireland Office was today appointed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, with the approval of the Prime Minister, with effect from [] [].

2. The bravery and increasing effectiveness of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the courage and professionalism of the Army have together made great progress in dealing with terrorism [and crime] in Northern Ireland. The Government is determined to give them the maximum possible support in their efforts, with no limitations on the resources needed. The relevant defence and "law and order" public expenditure programmes have been exempted from the Government's public expenditure cuts; and it was announced only on [date] that a further increase of 1,000 men had been authorised for the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

3. The Government's response to the problem of terrorism is to maintain and increase the pressure by the security forces on the terrorists so as to bring them to justice. There is no doubt that this response has the total support of the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland irrespective of their religious and sectarian differences.

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4. The measures adopted by the Government and the security forces in the war against terrorism are continually evolving to secure greater effectiveness. Recent events have underlined the need for sustained initiatives, including the current discussions with the Government of the Republic who have to deal with the same threat. This new appointment of a Security Co-ordinator in the Province is a further measure in the Government's attack on terrorism.

5. The object in appointing the Security Co-ordinator is to assist the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of the security effort in accordance with the Government's security objectives.

6. Security policy, political and constitutional development and economic and social policy interact on each other in Northern Ireland and need to be carefully linked together in HMG's total Northern Ireland policy so that each is pursued consistently with the others. The aim of the Government's security policy continues to be to eliminate terrorism and to extend normal policing throughout Northern Ireland. This policy will continue to be implemented through the application of the normal machinery of law and order in Northern Ireland. The Army will continue to operate in support of the police.

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The Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Army will remain under the command of the Chief Constable and the General Officer Commanding respectively.

7. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, supported by Mr Alison as his immediate deputy and by his other Ministers, remains personally responsible for all aspects of HMG's policy for Northern Ireland. The Security Co-ordinator will be a full member of the Secretary of State's staff and will contribute to the determined pursuit of all aspects of that policy. His first priorities will be to set up the new joint staff on a 24 hour operational basis and to review all current security measures.

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