

SECRET

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ



Prime Minister.

C A Whitmore Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

The draft announcement and the attributable guidance are virtually the same as the version you saw last week. The attributable defence brief is not. Are you content with the drafts? 1 October 1979

All those concerned with this appointment are now agreed that the announcement should be made on Wednesday at midday. Do you agree?

Dear Chive,

SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR

Seen + agreed by the
Prime Minister
JAH lx.22

JAH
lx.22

The Secretary of State had an initial discussion with Sir Maurice Oldfield on Friday.

Sir Maurice has agreed to start work in Belfast on 8 October. No term has been fixed for the appointment. We will be making all the necessary administrative and other arrangements for the new appointment in consultation with him. We are paying particular attention to his personal protection.

The Secretary of State has agreed with Sir Maurice that he should spend the first week or so in his new appointment talking to all those concerned with Security in Northern Ireland and coming to his own conclusions as to how he should set about his new task. They will then discuss these conclusions and decide on the way ahead. On further consideration, and having consulted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, our Ambassador in Dublin and the Ministry of Defence, the Secretary of State sees no reason to dissent from the Prime Minister's view that the public announcement should be made earlier rather than later this week. In particular, we are satisfied that the Prime Minister's statement issued on the Pope's departure will be seen as the Government's response to what the Pope has said, and that Sir Maurice's appointment, if announced on Wednesday, would not conflict with that. Such an announcement would be early enough to give the Irish Government a little time to digest the news before the Secretary of State's meeting with Mr O'Kennedy on Friday. We will be able to couple an early announcement with the announcement of the appointment of the new Chief Constable as part of the Secretary of State's new Security team. We will be able to refer to the Security Co-ordinator's appointment as well as to the announcement on 30 August of the increase of 1,000 men for the Royal Ulster Constabulary in the communique following the Secretary of State's talks with Mr O'Kennedy so as to achieve a desirable balance in the communique between action on cross border security which we are taking and that which the Irish are taking. The Secretary of State is very conscious of the need not to be pre-empted by a premature leak, but equally conscious of the need to manage the announcement of the appointment of the Security Co-ordinator so that it has the maximum desirable impact. This will entail widespread prior and careful

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briefing of those concerned inside and outside the Province. As a result, although it would be possible to make the announcements tomorrow at 4.00p.m. if leaks made it necessary to do so, the ground work for this sensitive announcement could be done better if it took place at midday on Wednesday.

... I attach a draft press announcement, attributable press guidance and a defensive brief for unattributable use and would be grateful for the Prime Minister's approval to the Secretary of State's proceeding as he proposes.

It has been agreed that all press inquiries will be dealt with by the Northern Ireland Office and that appropriate instructions will be issued by all Departments concerned to ensure that nothing is said publicly, formally or otherwise, to vitiate the impact of the announcement.

I am copying this letter to George Walden (FCO), John Chilcot (HO), Brian Norbury (MOD), Richard Prescott (Privy Council Office), and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely
Mike Hopkins

M W HOPKINS

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DRAFT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, with the approval of the Prime Minister, has appointed Sir Maurice Oldfield, GCMG, CBE as Security Co-ordinator. The appointment will take effect from 8th October.

2. Sir Maurice Oldfield will assist the Secretary of State in improving the co-ordination 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.

3. Sir Maurice Oldfield was born in 1915 and served in the army during the 1939-45 war. He joined the Foreign Office in 1947 and served in Singapore and Washington as well as in London. He retired in 1978 and for the past year has been Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. He is unmarried.

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SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR: DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE (ATTRIBUTABLE)

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 8 October.
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 in Northern Ireland. The Government is determined to give them the maximum possible support in their efforts. The relevant defence and "law and order" public expenditure programmes have been exempted from the Government's recent measures on government expenditure; and it was announced only on 30 August 1979 that a further increase of 1,000 men had been authorised for the Royal Ulster Constabulary.
3. The Government intends to maintain and increase the pressure by the security forces on the terrorists so as to bring them to justice. They have no doubt that their determination to defend the citizens of Northern Ireland against terrorism, murder and violence by upholding the rule of law is totally supported by the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland irrespective of their religious and political differences.
4. The measures adopted by the Government and the security forces in the fight against terrorism are continually evolving to achieve 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 fight against terrorism in accordance with the Government's security objectives.

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6. Security objectives, 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 machinery of law and order prevailing in Northern Ireland. The Army will continue to operate in support of the police. 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, is 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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DEFENSIVE BRIEF FOR UNATTRIBUTABLE USE

WHY APPOINTED

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.

WHY THIS PARTICULAR MAN

He has the breadth of vision, the foresight and the drive to help the Secretary of State to get the best out of the security forces in day to day operations where quick and co-ordinated decision taking is essential and to develop security strategy in co-ordination with the government's overall policy for the Province.

WHY EMPLOY FORMER HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

No comment.

Any particular past experience he may have had is incidental to this appointment. As we have already said, the appointment is based on the man's outstanding personal qualities, and not because of any particular expertise and experience that he may have acquired in the past.

AN INCREASE IN INTELLIGENCE EFFORT

The security forces naturally depend heavily on intelligence in dealing with terrorism. The more

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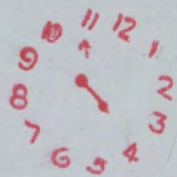
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they have the better. But this is not the reason for Sir Maurice Oldfield's appointment. As we have said in the attributable press guidance the Government's aim continues to be the extension of normal policing by the RUC throughout Northern Ireland. The Army will continue to operate in support of the police. And the Security Co-ordinator's particular responsibility will be to improve the co-ordination of the efforts of the Police and the Army.

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DRAFT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

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Sir Maurice Oldfield will assist the Secretary of State in improving the coordination and effectiveness of the security effort 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.

Sir Maurice Oldfield was born in 1915 and served in the army during the 1939-45 war. He joined the Foreign Office in 1947 and subsequently served in Singapore and Washington. He retired ~~from the Public Service~~ in 1978 and for the past year has been visiting fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. He is unmarried.

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PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin).....Z(G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix) (Caveat/ Privacy Marking) (Security Class.)...CONFIDENTIAL..... (Deskby).....Z (Codeword).....

TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN (precedence) (post) Tel. No. of

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[TEXT]

SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR, NORTHERN IRELAND

1. MIFT gives text of press announcement to be issued by Norther Ireland Office at on

. My second IFT gives guidance for use with the press. My third IFT gives some further unattributable background for use with the press in answer to questions.

2. This appointment will need to be carefully explained to the Irish Government, and we should like to give them some advance warning. You should accordingly seek an appointment at an appropriately high level in the DFA, (or the Taoiseach's Office if you think this preferable), but not before on

. You should hand over the text of

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the press announcement and draw as appropriate on the guidance in my second and third IFTs, supplemented by the more detailed oral briefing which we hope to give you.

3. Meanwhile in New York, and subject to the same timing constraint, Bullard should convey text of the press announcement to O'Kennedy, the Irish Foreign Minister. He should draw as appropriate on the accompanying guidance, but should also convey the following personal message from the Northern Ireland Secretary.

Begins:

I want you to know how grateful I was for what you said in your speech to the General Assembly about terrorism and the need for reconciliation. I am much looking forward to our forthcoming meeting in London on 5 October, in preparation for which I understand our officials will be meeting in Dublin on 27 September.

Meanwhile I want to let you have an advance copy of the announcement we are making today about the appointment of a Security Co-ordinator for Northern Ireland. Our Ambassador will be giving your people in Dublin a full account of the thinking underlying this appointment. It is my hope and belief that it will enable us to tighten up our own security operations, both in the border areas and elsewhere.

Ends

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AND SAVING TO

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SAVING TO (for info)

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

MIPT: SECURITY COORDINATOR, NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Following is text of Press announcement:

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, with the approval of the Prime Minister, has appointed Sir Maurice Oldfield GCMG, CBE, as Security Coordinator. The appointment will take effect from

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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.

Sir Maurice Oldfield was born in 1915 and served in the army during the 1939-45 war. He joined the Foreign Office in 1947 and subsequently served in Singapore and Washington. He retired from the Public Service in 1978 and for the past year has been visiting fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. He is unmarried.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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[TEXT]

MY TEL NO **A** : SECURITY COORDINATOR, NORTHERN IRELAND

1. The following is guidance for use with the Press

A - B

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(Security Class.) **CONFIDENTIAL** (Caveat)
(Codeword) (Privacy Marking)
(Deskby) Z

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[TEXT]

MY TEL NO **A** : SECURITY COORDINATOR NORTHERN IRELAND
1. The following is an unattributable line to take
in response to questions about the Security Coordinator's
background.

Q. Was he not formerly head of M16/SIS/the Secret Service?

A. As you know we ^{do not} cannot comment on such matters. But I
think Sir Maurice's former position is fairly well

/known

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known; he is a distinguished former public servant and has been picked for his personal qualities and extensive experience.

Q. Does this mean that the Intelligence Service is being given a greater role in Northern Ireland?

A. No. The Government's aim continues to be the extension of normal policing (by the RUC) throughout Northern Ireland. The army are in support of the RUC. The Security Coordinator's particular responsibility will be to improve police/army coordination.

Q. Is there not a serious shortage of intelligence on PIRA? Does this appointment mean that a greater emphasis is being placed on intelligence?

A. The Security Forces naturally depend heavily on intelligence dealing with terrorism. The more they have the better. But this is not the reason for the appointment.

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(Time of Origin).....Z(G.M.T.)

(Restrictive Prefix)

(Security Class.) **CONFIDENTIAL**

(Caveat)

Privacy Marking)

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(Deskby).....Z

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AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info) **IMMEDIATE DUBLIN**

SAVING TO (for info)

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

MY TELS NO **A-D** TO DUBLIN: SECURITY COORDINATOR, NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Liaising as necessary with Bullard, please convey to Vance (but not before on) the text of the press announcement in my tel no to Dublin, drawing as appropriate on the accompanying background guidance. Please tell him that I would have wished to inform him myself had my own travel arrangements made this possible.

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