

SECRET

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Sir Howard Smith, KCMG,
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Hidden Copies
Sir M. Oldfield
Mr. Hannigan
Mr. Marshall

KWH
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Dear Howard

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 9 January to Robert Armstrong about the attitude of the Irish Gardai towards security and intelligence co-operation.

This was a timely report, since it coincided with the first visit which the new Chief Constable of the RUC, Jack Hermon, had paid to Dublin to meet the Commissioner. His report was wholly consistent with the tenor of your letter both as regards the attitude of the Prime Minister of the Republic - essentially, to require the professional services to carry out their task to the best of their ability - and the consequent approach of the Garda themselves. Jack Hermon was properly cautious, of course, but he was able to cite some notable changes not only in attitude but in practice on the part of the Garda.

It looks as though things are moving in the right direction. We shall be very interested to hear what Ainsworth has to say on 1 February.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,

Ken.

SECRET

K.R. STOWE

16 JAN 1960

