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SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND

The Rt Hon George Younger MP  
Secretary of State for Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

14<sup>th</sup> January 1986

EDD 14/1

*Dear Secretary of State,*

THE POLICE BUILDING PROGRAMME IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Thank you very much for your letter of 24 December.

As you say, our officials have been in touch, and have identified a list of projects which are of high priority to the Royal Ulster Constabulary and within the compass of the Royal Engineers, and whose completion will be a most visible demonstration of the Government's determination to overcome this latest PIRA campaign. Officials will continue to keep in touch, particularly on what we should say and when. HQNI handled the recent arrival of reinforcement troops with considerable skill, and my instinct at this stage is to continue to proceed quietly. Our best PR card will be when work is seen to begin on the ground on damaged and destroyed RUC stations.

Since I wrote to you on 17 December still further attacks have been mounted on RUC buildings. Your assistance has therefore been most timely and I greatly appreciate it.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, Douglas Hurd, Kenneth Baker and Sir Robert Armstrong.

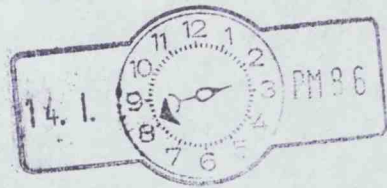
*Yours sincerely*

*Neil Ward  
Private Secretary*

*for* T K

(Approved by the Secretary of State  
and signed in his absence in  
Northern Ireland)

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