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Title:	Copy letter from Ambassador of Ireland to Great Britain Donal O'Sullivan to Secretary of the Department of External Affairs HJ McCann, mainly reporting a conversation with former Royal Ulster Constabulary Chief Constable Arthur Young on the situation in Northern Ireland.
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17 Grosvenor Place

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Confidential

February 5th 1971

Dear Secretary

I was among the guests of honour at a dinner given last evening by the Skinners Company which is one of the oldest of the Livery Companies in London. The function was organised as an Irish evening and many of the people present had some Irish connection. The attendance included the Lord Mayor, the Home Secretary, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Catholic Bishop of Brentwood who stood in for the Cardinal, Sir Arthur Young and Lord Butler of Saffron Walden.

I found the Home Secretary most friendly but, while we talked in a group for a considerable time, there was no opportunity for me to bring up official matters with him. I did, however, mention that I would like to call on him one day and he said he would be greatly pleased to be able to have a chat on matters of common interest.

I had quite a long conversation with Sir Arthur Young who said he finds his job as Head of the City of London Police quite dull by comparison with what he was doing in the North. As one might expect, he expressed himself as highly pleased with the "transformation effected in the R.U.C.". Respect for the force is, he said, now growing daily and quite a lot of Catholic recruitment has taken place but he would very much like to see more Catholics joining.

He is not optimistic about the early restoration of peace. It could, he said, take several years. While he did not say so, it seemed clear to me from the general tone of his remarks

that he has no high opinion of General Freeland. He deplored the searches made in the Falls Road by the Army and said this sort of thing should never have happened. The more recent outbreaks of trouble in Belfast can certainly be blamed on the Army's bad tactics in inviting local girls to dances and excluding the local boys. One of the great weaknesses in the Army set-up in the North is that it operates independently on its own free of responsibility to any authority located in the area. It should function as a reinforcement for the police force but co-operation between the two is far from perfect. Sir Arthur is convinced that there is urgent need for the appointment of a civilian Head over the Army and the Police to ensure proper co-operation and co-ordination. Oliver Wright would be a perfect choice for this job.

Sir Arthur went on to talk about the impending return to London of Mr. Burroughs. He thinks that Burroughs has been doing a good job but would not regard him as, in any way, being in the same category as his predecessor.

Sir Arthur expressed himself as quite disturbed at rumours which have reached him that Mr. Burroughs may not be replaced. This, he believes, would be a fatal mistake. It is absolutely essential that this post be maintained for a further period because, for one thing, the very existence of it means that the Stormont Government will be much more careful in carrying out the wishes of Westminster. An equally important reason is that the British representative in Belfast can be a most valuable

*I would agree
with this opinion
H.M.L.*

*We are considering
taking this up
in London.
H.M.L.*

link between the Minority side and the Government.
He had no doubt that people like the Cardinal and
Father Murphy of Belfast would strongly support him
in this view.

Yours sincerely

DONAL O'SULLIVAN

Ambassador

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