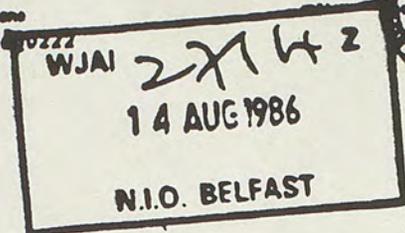


Telephone
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13 August 1986

Dear Sir

VISITS BY MINISTERS TO POLICE ESTABLISHMENTS

Your letters to Chief Superintendent Turkington, Chief Superintendent Gardner and Assistant Chief Constable Wallace, following the recent visits of Mr Scott to Border Divisions, have been referred to the Chief Constable.

You are aware that a very comprehensive programme of work has been undertaken by Garda and RUC, under Article 9 of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, with a view to, inter alia, establishing better and more efficient procedures for co-operation by both Forces. A great deal of this work has already been completed and will, in due course, be put to the Conference for "ratification".

The Chief Constable is of the opinion that the best way forward, in the whole field of RUC/Garda co-operation, is through the recommendations of the various working parties as agreed between the Chief Constable and the Commissioner and that it would be counter-productive, at this stage, for problems which may have arisen in any particular area, to be taken up at any political level. Certainly the primary effect would be a loss of confidence and trust at local level. It would be for the Chief Constable to raise such matters with the Commissioner and only with disagreement to raise them through the Secretariat or Conference.

On the general question of visits by Ministers of State to Police establishments, which do not take place in the same manner, nor with the same frequency, elsewhere in the United Kingdom, the Chief Constable wishes to draw up guidelines to create uniformity throughout the Force area for the conduct of these visits. It would be helpful if the Chief Constable could have your impressions as to what those guidelines might include. It would also be helpful if, in the future, letters which request the Chief Constable's approval for such visits would include the purpose of the intended visit.

Yours faithfully

E HENRY
Chief Superintendent
for Chief Constable

Mr W J A Innes
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