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21

FROM: A D SHANNON
Police Division (B)
2 June 1989

cc. PS/Secretary of State (B)-B
PS/PUS (B&L)-B
Mr Stephens-B
Mr Burns-B
Mr A P Wilson-B
Mr Brooker-B

PS/Secretary of State (L)-B

MEETING WITH MR ANNESLEY - 5 JUNE 1989

You asked for briefing on the above. The primary purpose of the meeting is to formally welcome Mr Annesley to the Province and to reiterate HMG's main concerns and expectations on policing.

2. Mr Annesley met the Secretary of State in March and had subsequently had meetings with PUS, Mr Stephens and Mr Wilson. Impressions so far are that he intends to "look, listen and learn" rather than jump to hasty conclusions and that changes, when they come, will be carefully considered. Nevertheless it seems that he is fully seized of the importance of community relations and the weaknesses in internal management, particularly financial control and personnel management.

3. I understand that he will not be coming on Monday intent on raising specific issues. The Secretary of State therefore, in the limited time available (45 minutes) may wish to concentrate attention on 3 main areas:-

(a) Security policy, including relations with the army

(b) Public confidence; and

(c) The management task.

4. I attach speaking notes on each.

(signed)

A D SHANNON
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SHA Ext 215

2 June 1989

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ANNEX 1

SECURITY POLICY

1. Arrival of new Chief Constable affords a useful opportunity to take stock. Suggest that we sit down with the GOC at the next meeting of SPM on 22 May and reassess the direction and effectiveness of policy.

2. Close working relationships between the NIO, the RUC and the Army vital. Coming from the Metropolitan police which, of all the mainland forces has the closest direct relationship with Government, Mr Annesley will appreciate the need for the closest co-ordination between the police the Army and the Government if the fight against terrorism in particular is to be prosecuted effectively. There are already good relations between the three organisations at all levels but, in particular, the Secretary of State will want the Chief Constable to give his full support to 3 Brigade.

3. So far as security policy is concerned, one of our deepest worries is the large amount of weaponry and explosives still available to terrorists north and south of the border. So too is the technological sophistication of some of their devices. The Government would also like to see clear progress against paramilitary racketeering, etc in the near future.

4. One area which requires particular handling is that of intelligence - both the structures for dealing with it and the way in which they are used - and we shall need to discuss that in detail in due course.

5. Co-operation with the Irish Republic is of vital importance. Relations between the 2 police forces have improved greatly since 1985 (again the relationship at the top is crucial).

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6. Various legislative and other changes that have been introduced in the last 6 months or so to sharpen up the fight against terrorism (PT Bill, Right of Silence, Broadcasting Restrictions, Declaration of Non-violence, etc). It is unlikely that further major legal changes could be contemplated before 1992 when the Emergency Provisions Acts must be replaced.

7. We recognise that the first few months could be particularly testing for the new Chief Constable. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that PIRA will step-up their campaign in order to test his reaction and the summer months are, as always, likely to be busy especially given the 20th Anniversary of the arrival of the troops plus the Tercentenary this year of the Londonderry seige. At all costs, everyone must work hard to prevent avoidable mistakes. It is vital that the terrorists' job should be made as hard as possible so all police officers, like others at risk, should remain ultra-vigilant for their own and others' safety.

Defensive - Lackey Bridge

8. It seems unlikely that the Chief Constable will raise this issue as the Secretary of State gave the previous Chief Constable a firm decision after SPM on 22 May and Sir John Hermon acquiesced in that decision. Nor, on the face of it, would there be much point in the Secretary of State raising it himself as it has now been sorted out. There must be a slight possibility, however, that the Chief Constable will mention it either if Sir John Hermon has briefed him about it or if there are continuing anxieties amongst other senior officers. In either case, the Secretary of State's answer should remain the same; that he has thought long and hard about it but is persuaded that the retention of the PVCP cannot, overall, be justified.

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ANNEX 2

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

Throughout its history the RUC has had difficulty in commanding the respect and support of all sections of the community. A great deal of progress has been made in recent years. The Bennett safeguards, the former Chief Constable's public commitment to evenhanded policing, the obvious professionalism, the recent handling of parades and the events of 1985/86 have all helped to improve minority confidence in the RUC. The former Foreign Minister of the Irish Republic has urged Catholics to join the force and even Seamus Mallon asked for information to be given after the Jonesborough killings. But Catholic representation in the force remains low, the Stalker/Sampson issue has impeded progress and certain operations such as road checks, house searches and the handling of IRA funerals still give rise to problems. We have introduced new police complaints procedures and next year the PACE safeguards for, inter alia, suspects in custody will take effect. There are limits to what can be achieved, but there is still room for improvement. Essential to get across to every policeman (and soldier) that public confidence is essential not simply to serve some political objective but effective policing itself.

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ANNEX 3

MANAGEMENT

1. In day to day operational matters the RUC is generally very effective in deploying resources on the ground. But management and administrative procedures need improvement. HMG has not been ungenerous with resources - current provision of £415m is an increase of 50% over 4 years ago. But the provision is taking an increasing share of the Northern Ireland budget and it is incumbent on us all (NIO/PANI/RUC) to ensure that resources are used to best effect. Considerable improvement in financial control in the past year but more work needed in organisational development and strategic management. Hope new Chief Administrative Officer (Mr Hannigan from 19 June) will be of assistance.

2. On personnel, NIO prepared to consider any top structure proposals. A significant proportion of senior officers coming towards the end of their careers and vitally important to develop and plan the careers of those below. More interchange with mainland forces would be welcome (2 real posts) and training requires more planning and commitment.

3. In all of this PANI has an important role to play. New membership appointed a year ago (for 3 years) and the Chairman and Chief Executive are able and fully committed to the police service. We reviewed the PANI/RUC/NIO relationship in 1986 and concluded that PANI should gradually delegate more of its executive role to the RUC but become more active in its community and strategic roles. This process has still some way to go. If handled carefully PANI should be an extremely valuable alley for the RUC.

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