

*Mr Green file A 880/65 to you on 7/2/68*



Any reply should be addressed  
to: THE SECRETARY



Government of Northern Ireland  
**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

STORMONT, BELFAST 4 BT4 3SU

Telegrams: Homaff, Belfast

Telephone: Belfast 63210

Our reference: P.1006, P.15614  
Your reference: A.880/65

15 February, 1968.

Copies of Reply - 4

Dear Sir,

I have to refer to previous correspondence regarding the establishment of the R.U.C. transport fleet and to inform you that our present holding of armoured vehicles is 33, made up as follows:-

- 10 Shorland armoured cars
- 10 Humber armoured cars
- 13 Commer armoured cars

In your letter of 2nd March, 1966, you approved an establishment of 20 for armoured vehicles consisting of 10 Shorland and 10 Humber armoured cars. Of the 13 Commer armoured cars mentioned above 10 were earmarked for Civil Defence purposes and 3 were to be sold. Due to the run down in Civil Defence the 10 armoured cars are not now required for this purpose so we have therefore 13 armoured vehicles surplus to requirements.

In the Ministry's opinion there are three courses of action which can be taken regarding these surplus vehicles. These are as follows:-

1. Dispose of them in their present condition.
2. Remove the armour and sell the chassis.
3. Mothball them for use in a future emergency.

Regarding 1 above, the Ministry wrote to the Ministry of Defence enquiring if there was a market for this type of vehicle. An extract from the Ministry of Defence reply reads as follows:-

"I regret to say that we do not consider there is a market for these operational vehicles - there would be the difficulty of guaranteeing a spares backing for some years ahead, and it would not be practicable to offer to supply any additional or replacement vehicles."

Regarding 2 above, these vehicles have a petrol engine and according to our technical adviser this is not an attractive proposition on the open market. If they had been fitted with a diesel engine there would have been no difficulty in selling the chassis. Stripping them of armour would be expensive and it is doubtful if the sale of the chassis would cover this cost. The armour itself has apparently little or no value.

In view of the comments regarding 1 and 2 it would therefore appear that the

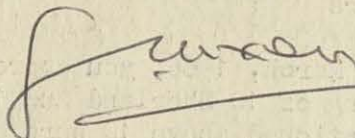
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40 each

only sensible action is the one suggested at 3 above. May I therefore have your approval for the necessary expenditure involved in having the 13 surplus Commer armoured vehicles mothballed by this Ministry's Transport Workshop for long-term storage as an emergency reserve.

Yours faithfully,



The Secretary,  
Ministry of Finance,  
Stormont,  
BELFAST.  
BT4 3SW

Wash

Shirley Paul

Doherty

$13 \times 40 = 520$