

Reference Code: 2019/31/27

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were informed in London and Belfast, shortly before the public statement at 2,30 this afternoon, that the new RUC Chief Constable is to be Mr Hugh Annesley. We have not yet been provided with a CV but we understand he was born in Dublin, of a Northern Protestant father and Southern Catholic mother, and spent his youth here before joining the British police in 1958. He was brought up a Protestant. He is

aged 49, married to a Northern Catholic and has a son and daughter. He is currently Assistant Commissioner at the Met in London with responsibility for special branch and anti-terrorist

Mr Annesley is the appointment of the Northern Ireland Police Authority. We understand he was also regarded as the best gandidate by the present RUC Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon, for whom his experience of anti-terrorist operations was a vital cualification It remains to be seen what his attitude will be to community relations and the provision of ordinary policing in areas where it has ceased to exist in Northern Ireland. He has a low media profile and little is known of his views on this or other matters. Mr Annesley intends to live in Northern Ireland. He is expected to succeed Sir John Hermon on 1 June.

It is not proposed that any domment be made on the appointment, The MIO expects a hostile reaction from Unionists who have already expressed indignation that no member of the RUC was included in the final list of condidates.

PSS/Mr Gallagher

Ambassedors London/Washington