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CONFIDENTIAL

1 August, 1991.

Mr Sean O hUiginn,
Assistant Secretary,
Department of Foreign Affairs.

Mr D. Donoghue
SDH
2/8

Dear Assistant Secretary,

Panorama Programme on Lethal Force of 22 July, 1991.

In the course of conversation yesterday with the British side (Ian Maye), it emerged that the NIO only became aware of the full extent of the information in the possession of the RUC on the various shootings through the Panorama programme.

This apparently gave rise to considerable annoyance and a review has been commissioned at Under-Secretary level (headed by Austin Wilson) of liaison arrangements generally with the RUC.

The emphasis placed on the operational independence of the RUC by the Chief Constable is, of course, an ongoing cause of irritation within the NIO. Privately, we have been told that the (acknowledged) changes in British practice in replying to our reports of unaccompanied patrols has everything to do with positions adopted by Hugh Annesley and that the RUC agreement to provide statistics on levels of accompaniment had not been obtained without a struggle.

The Panorama programme comes in the wake of further media reports on Annesley's unpopularity within the RUC, and I gathered that full use will be made of the opportunity to try to make him more accountable to those at Stormont.

Yours sincerely,

EB N
E Brian Nason