CONFIDENIAL

OTE OF MEETING WITH HOME SECRETARY IN LONDON ON 3 SEPTEMBER 1970

Present:

The Home Secretary

Mr Sharples

Mr Neil Cairncross Mr Graham Angel Major Chichester-Clark Sir Harold Black

1. RETURN OF SIR ARTHUR YOUNG TO CITY OF LONDON POLICE

This subject was discussed in the light of the Northern Ireland political situation and the criticism which was mounting against the Chief Constable. Major Chichester-Clark said he was apprehensive lest Sir Arthur's resignation should be called for at the impending meeting of the Ulster Unionist Council which his own right-wing opponents seemed intent on calling within the next month or so. It would obviously be better if an announcement about Sir Arthur's return to his parent Force could be made before this meeting took place, otherwise it would be difficult to act without appearing to give in to pressure. It was essential that the successor should be drawn from the RUC and that his name should be announced at the same time as news of Sir Arthur's impending return to London.

The Home Secretary said that in his discussion with the Chief Constable on 26 August he had indicated that the GOC would be leaving Northern Ireland in February 1971 (that is, at about the time the Chief Constable had mentioned as the terminal date for his appointment) and as it was undesirable that both the Police and Army Commanders should leave at the same time he had indicated that it would meet the situation better if the Chief Constable would find it convenient to leave somewhat earlier. Sir Arthur, however, had been inclined to the view that the GOC rather than he should bring forward his departure date and he, Sir Arthur, had offered to remain on until April 1971.

It was agreed that the most tactful way out of this situation would be for the Home Secretary to write to the Chief Constable (in reply to the latter's letter of 31 August 1970) and explain more fully what he had had in mind on the relative timing of the Chief Constable's and GOC's transfer dates. The object would be to agree a November date for the Chief Constable.

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At one point in the discussion the Home Secretary touched upon the need to satisfy minority opinion that the change at the top of the RUC - which would undoubtedly be associated with the recent departure from the Government of Mr Robert Porter - did not imply a move to the right and a return to traditional attitudes towards the minority on the part of the Government and the Police.

Major Chichester-Clark said he was conscious of this difficulty and said he had in mind, as a possible way of meeting this, that there should be appointed two Deputies under the new Chief Constable, one of whom would be an import from a British Police Force; such an arrangement, if the Police Authority were prepared to adopt it, should go far to reassure the minority.

2. AUSTIN CURRIE'S TELEGRAM TO THE HOME SECRETARY SEEKING AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF MR HAUGHEY IN COALISLAND FOLLOWING HIS ALLEGED INJURY IN THE COURSE OF A POLICE BATON CHARGE

Major Chichester-Clark showed the Home Secretary a note he had received from the Police on the circumstances of this case and which clearly suggested that the injury suffered by Mr Haughey -

- (a) had not been caused by a baton, and
- (b) had not contributed to his death subsequently from a heart condition.

UDR ARMS

Major Chichester-Clark said that in his recent tour of Police and UDR units he had been unfavourably impressed by the length of time it took to arm many of the UDR members. This had been particularly apparent in areas where the UDR arms had to be collected from a distant armoury; in Clogher, for example, there was a 2-hour gap because the weapons had to be collected from Omagh. He asked that consideration should be given urgently to an increase in the proportion of UDR weapons which could be kept at the homes of members.

4. POLITICAL HONOURS

Major Chichester-Clark asked whether any indication was yet available as to the Prime Minister's intention on the re-introduction of

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Olitical honours. The Home Secretary said he would seek the views of the Prime Minister.

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