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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Deputy Under Secretary

25 September 1979

C.A. Whitmore, Esq.,  
Prime Minister's Office,  
10 Downing Street.

834 - 3721

*Dear Clive,*

SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR

I enclose a copy of a draft Press Announcement and of supplementary Press Guidance which would be issued by the Northern Ireland Office about the appointment of the Security Co-ordinator as soon as possible after his acceptance of the task.

These two drafts have been prepared in close consultation with the Ministry of Defence and each has the approval and support of the respective Secretaries of State, Permanent Under Secretaries and, in the case of the Ministry of Defence, the CGS. Taken together with the memorandum agreed between Mr Atkins and Mr Pym which was annexed to their Cabinet Paper (C(79)34) they constitute the definitive prescription for the Security Co-ordinator and his joint staff.

There has also been an exchange of views between myself and Sir Frank Cooper, in connection with the preparation of the Press handouts, about how the Security Co-ordinator and his team will work in practice and our agreed conclusions on certain important points are set out in the attached copy letter to me from Frank Cooper of 24 September.

If, as we profoundly hope, we shall have a Security Co-ordinator by this evening, the way is now clear, subject to the Prime Minister's approval, for the announcement to be made during the course of Wednesday morning. Contingent

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*Bryanor John*

preparations have been made to ensure that the Chief Constable and GOC in Northern Ireland, the Opposition and Dublin are each informed in appropriate terms before the announcement.

I am copying this letter to Sir Frank Cooper, Sir Ian Bancroft and Sir John Hunt.

*Your man.  
Ken Stowe.*

K.R. STOWE

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24 September 1979

DRAFT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, with the approval of the Prime Minister, has appointed ----- as Security Co-ordinator. The appointment will take effect from [ ] .

2. ----- will assist the Secretary of State in improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of the security effort in Northern Ireland. He will be based in Northern Ireland and be supported by a joint staff drawn from the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the Army and the Civil Service which will be operational 24 hours a day.

[Personal Background]

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SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR : DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE

1. The Security Co-ordinator in the Northern Ireland Office was today appointed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, with the approval of the Prime Minister, with effect from [ ] [ ].
  
2. The bravery and increasing effectiveness of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the courage and professionalism of the Army have together made great progress in dealing with terrorism in Northern Ireland. The Government is determined to give them the maximum possible support in their efforts, with no limitations on the resources needed. The relevant defence and "law and order" public expenditure programmes have been exempted from the Government's <sup>measures to stabilise</sup> public expenditure [cuts]; and it was announced only on [date] that a further increase of 1,000 men had been authorised for the Royal Ulster Constabulary.
  
3. The Government's response to the problem of terrorism is to maintain and increase the pressure by the security forces on the terrorists so as to bring them to justice. There is no doubt that this response has the total support of the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland irrespective of their religious and sectarian differences.

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4. The measures adopted by the Government and the security forces in the war against terrorism are continually evolving to secure greater effectiveness. Recent events have underlined the need for sustained initiatives, including the current discussions with the Government of the Republic who have to deal with the same threat. This new appointment of a Security Co-ordinator in the Province is a further measure in the Government's attack on terrorism.

5. The object in appointing the Security Co-ordinator is to assist the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of the security effort in accordance with the Government's security objectives.

6. Security policy, political and constitutional development and economic and social policy interact on each other in Northern Ireland and need to be carefully linked together in HMG's total Northern Ireland policy so that each is pursued consistently with the others. The aim of the Government's security policy continues to be to eliminate terrorism and to extend normal policing throughout Northern Ireland. This policy will continue to be implemented through the application of the normal machinery of law and order in Northern Ireland. The Army will continue to operate in support of the police.

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The Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Army will remain under the command of the Chief Constable and the General Officer Commanding respectively.

7. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, supported by Mr Alison as his immediate deputy and by his other Ministers, is personally responsible for all aspects of HMG's policy for Northern Ireland. The Security Co-ordinator will be a full member of the Secretary of State's staff and will contribute to the determined pursuit of all aspects of that policy. His first priorities will be to set up the new joint staff on a 24 hour operational basis and to review all current security measures.

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