



Prime Minister

*Agreed  
not*

Agree to:-

- ✓ (i) Sir Brooks Richards' appointment;
- ✓ (ii) the draft press notice and background guidance;
- ✓ (iii) sending a personal letter of thanks to Sir Maurice Oldfield?

PRIME MINISTER

*10vi*

We agreed at your meeting on 15 May that we should try to secure the services of Sir Anthony Duff or, failing him, Sir Brooks Richards to succeed Sir Maurice Oldfield for a limited period. Sir Anthony Duff, for personal reasons felt obliged to decline the appointment. Sir Brooks Richards was therefore approached and he had indicated that he would be willing to take on the task. Both Francis Pym and I have interviewed him and we think he would be a suitable successor; in particular, he would bring to the post not only his wide experience and authority as a diplomat but his recent expertise as the Intelligence Co-ordinator in the Cabinet Office; and he would wish to operate in the same style of imaginative but sensitive leadership which has contributed so largely to Sir Maurice Oldfield's success. We propose therefore, if you agree, to appoint him to succeed from Sir Maurice Oldfield with effect from 16 June.

Sir Brooks Richards would have preferred that no formal announcement of his appointment should be made since he wishes the measures necessary for his personal protection in Northern Ireland and Great Britain to be minimal. It is clear however that the Security Authorities would feel obliged, irrespective of any formal announcement, to give him the protection appropriate to the potential PIRA target; and I am in no doubt that it is politically desirable to make the Government's commitment to the post and the person doing it unequivocally clear. I propose therefore to issue a press notice, with attributable background briefing, to announce his appointment. There are particular personal reasons why Sir Brooks Richards, with Sir Robert Armstrong's support, would wish this to be deferred until the day he takes up his appointment i.e. 16 June. I see no difficulty about this and propose therefore that the announcement be made in terms of the attached drafts at 1430 on that date.

I shall of course inform the Opposition spokesman and the relevant leaders of the political parties in Northern Ireland of the appointment shortly in advance of the announcement.

The terms of the announcement have been agreed with Francis Pym, Sir Robert Armstrong and with Sir Maurice Oldfield himself.

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APPOINTMENTS - IN CONFIDENCE

Sir Maurice has expressed a wish that his departure should not be marked by any formal occasion. I shall make clear to him informally the Government's appreciation for all that he has done in Northern Ireland at great personal cost to himself. You may feel that since you saw him yourself to ask him to take up the post you will wish to write him a personal letter of thanks. If so, I will be pleased to furnish a draft letter.

I am copying this minute to Willie Whitelaw, Peter Carrington, Francis Pym and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*R. A. Harrington.*

pp. H A

6. JUNE 1980

APPOINTMENTS - IN CONFIDENCE

DRAFT NIO PRESS NOTICE

SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR - NEW APPOINTMENT

The Secretary of State, the Rt. Hon. Humphrey Atkins MP, with the approval of the Prime Minister, has appointed Sir Brooks Richards KCMG, DSC as Security Co-ordinator, in succession to Sir Maurice Oldfield GCMG, CBE. The appointment will take effect from [16 June 1980].

Sir Brooks was born in 1918 and served in the Royal Navy during the 1939-45 war. He joined the Diplomatic Service in 1944 and served in a variety of posts abroad and in London, becoming HM Ambassador to Greece in 1974. Since 1978 he has been serving in the Cabinet Office. ~~He is married with a son and a daughter.~~

SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR: ATTRIBUTABLE BACKGROUND PRESS GUIDANCE

The background to the appointment of Sir Maurice Oldfield as Security Co-ordinator was set out in attributable background press guidance issued by the Northern Ireland Office on 2 October 1979. This guidance still holds good today ... (copy attached)

Sir Maurice Oldfield was asked to return to the public service from retirement for a limited period of a few months in order to assist the Secretary of State by establishing a new Joint Staff; reviewing all current security measures; and making immediate improvements in the co-ordination and effectiveness of the security forces in accordance with the Government's security objectives. He has made substantial progress in achieving these objectives and the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State are very grateful to Sir Maurice for all that he has done to make more effective the security effort against terrorism in Northern Ireland. There is still work to be done to consolidate what has already been achieved. Sir Maurice regrets, however, that for health reasons his appointment should not be extended. Hence the appointment of Sir Brooks Richards to succeed him for a further limited period.

SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR: ATTRIBUTABLE BACKGROUND PRESS GUIDANCE

In connection with the appointment by the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Humphrey Atkins MP, of a security co-ordinator in the Northern Ireland Office, journalists may wish to make use of the following background information on an attributable basis:-

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. The relevant defence and "law and order" public expenditure programmes have been exempted from the Government's recent measures on government expenditure; and it was announced only on 30 August 1979 that a further increase of 1,000 men had been authorised for the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The Government intends to maintain and increase the pressure by the security forces on the terrorists so as to bring them to justice. They have no doubt that their determination to defend the citizens of Northern Ireland against terrorism, murder and violence by upholding the rule of law is totally supported by the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland irrespective of their religious and political differences.

The measures adopted by the Government and the security forces in the fight against terrorism are continually evolving to

achieve 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.

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 fight against terrorism in accordance with the Government's security objectives. 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. Security objectives, 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 machinery of law and order prevailing in Northern Ireland. The Army will continue to operate in support of the police. The Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Army will remain under the command of the Chief Constable and the General Officer Commanding respectively.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, supported by Minister of State Mr Michael 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

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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.