



SECRET

Mr Whitmore

Northern Ireland: Security Coordinator

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's
minute of 8 April.

2. The fact is that Sir Maurice Oldfield
and Sir Brooks Richards have done what
was required to be done. The job was
always seen as finite. It is no longer
needed.

3. There are two reasons for not winding
it up immediately but keeping it in
mothballs as proposed:

(a) it will reassure the Chief Constable
of the RUC to know that the
Coordinator is still there in the
background, and could be wheeled

in if he (the Chief Constable) were to run into the same sort of trouble with the GOC as his predecessor encountered;

(b) it enables the Secretary of State not to announce the winding up of the post at a time when it would be politically inconvenient to do so.

4. On this basis I think that the Prime Minister can agree with what is proposed; but I suggest that the agreement should be subject to a firm understanding that the arrangement will be reviewed in a year's time with a view to discontinuing it completely then.

RWA

10. iv. 81.