



cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)
 PS/Mr Scott (B&L)
 PS/PUS (B&L)
 PS/Mr Bloomfield
 Mr Brennan
 Mr Burns
 Mr Buxton
 Mr Gilliland
 Mr Merifield
 Mr Coulson
 Mr Lyon
 Mr Radcliffe

2 SEC/11

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

HM Ambassador, Dublin
 Mr Clark, FCO

THE RUC AND THE GARDA - IRISH TIMES ARTICLE OF 4.12.84

I had a telephone call from Mr Kirby of the Department of Justice in Dublin about the article at Annex A in the "Irish Times" for 4 December. Mr Kirby asked whether it was true that the Chief Constable had "conceded that there had been stresses at a higher level between the RUC and Garda".

2. I spoke to the Chief Constable about this. He said that the meeting of foreign correspondents in London which was mentioned in the article and which he had addressed on 3 December had been arranged under the auspices of the Central Office of Information. Mr McKittrick, the author of the article, had not even been present at the meeting, and the Chief Constable said that he had certainly not spoken in the terms reported. He added that he was most anxious to have a meeting with the Commissioner of the Garda to see what could be done to improve police cooperation.

3. The Chief Constable said that he had in any case been annoyed by the whole article, especially since he had been speaking "off the record". He had received a letter of apology from Mr McKittrick - copy attached at Annex B.

4. Finally, the Chief Constable said that he was glad that the Irish authorities had raised the point with the Northern Ireland Office in this low-key and responsible way. He would always be happy to respond to any points or questions that the Department of Justice raised.

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4. I passed on all this information to Mr Kirby today. He said that he was grateful to have it, and that this showed once again how useful it was for the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Office to have regular arrangements for raising and clarifying points of doubt and difficulty.

J. B. Bourn

J B BOURN

DUS(B)

14 December 1984

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