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**Title:** Copy summary of remarks made by Taoiseach Jack Lynch to British Chargé d’Affaires RW Piper regarding the proposed appointment of Graham Shillington as Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

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Summary of remarks made by Taoiseach to  
Mr R.W. Pinner, *Billet Change d'affaire*, at  
3.00 p.m. - 23.9.1970

I have to say that I am concerned about the possible reaction to the appointment of Mr. Shillington, as Chief Constable of the RUC. While the work done by Sir Arthur Young in reforming the RUC is worthy of the highest praise, I am unable to assent to the view that the creation of a new kind of RUC could be accomplished within the space of a year or so.

In this respect I would mention that I understand that the Drury report on the Devenney case - not yet published - will show that RUC men were responsible for the injuries to Devenney but that Drury has not been able to identify them. If this is so the public generally in the North will interpret the report to mean that, despite the "new look" given to the RUC by the work of Sir Arthur Young, the RUC generally is still unwilling to police itself. Consequently the appointment as Chief Constable of a man who has been a senior officer of the RUC for many years will be seen as a retrograde step at this time.

I also understand that Mr. Shillington was in charge of the RUC force engaged in the "battle of the Bogside" in August of last year.

I am not suggesting a personal criticism of Mr. Shillington but it should be abundantly clear that replacing Sir Arthur Young with Mr. Shillington at a time when vital reforms have not yet been legislated in the North and when pressure from the Unionist right-wing is increasing in intensity from day to day is an extremely risky act.

I am mentioning these factors to you as an indication of my concern about the possible consequences of making this appointment.

If, however, this appointment has definitely been decided I would suggest, in order to alleviate the public mind, that the Home Secretary in the statement he intends to issue will say in clear language that there is no question whatever of re-arming the RUC, reviving the B Specials or creating any other armed force under the control of Stormont.