

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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## APPOINTMENT OF SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Humphrey Atkins MP, with the approval of the Prime Minister, has appointed Sir Maurice Oldfield, GCMG, CBE as Security Co-Ordinator. The appointment will take effect from 8 October.

Sir Maurice Oldfield will assist the Secretary of State in improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of the fight against terrorism 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.

Sir Maurice Oldfield was born in 1915 and served in the army during the 1939-45 war. He joined the Foreign Office in 1947 and served in Singapore and Washington as well as in London. He retired in 1978 and for the past year has been Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. He is unmarried.

NOTE TO EDITOR

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.

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 the law 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 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.