

9th September, 1970

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

I am grateful for the letter you sent me about your own position and your view on the choice of your successor. I realize that the fact that law and order has become a passionate political issue has made your personal position difficult. I very much deplore the personal attacks that have been made on you and admire the fortitude and determination with which you are carrying on your work.

The suggestion that you should stay on beyond the time you had originally set yourself, to give time for the new G.O.C. to settle in, is a typically generous one. But I have discussed the situation with Major Chichester-Clark and I feel sure that the right course is for you to return to the City this year, to give your successor about three months before the new G.O.C. takes over in early February. I am fully persuaded that this course will be in everyone's interest including your own. You very generously said that you would take whatever course was convenient to the Northern Ireland Government and Major Chichester-Clark shares my view that a handover this year is right. The precise date can be left for the moment, but it is important that the police authority should lose no time in selecting your successor and presenting him for the approval of Major Chichester-Clark as Minister of Home Affairs. I understand they will be asked to commence their consideration of this within the next week or so. When the name has been approved, it is right that it should be announced quickly and I would like to see the change in the police command announced at the same time as the change in the army command. This would remove any misinterpretation that could be put on the circumstances of the changeover.

When the announcement is made it will be my intention to place on record the very high regard I have for the service you have rendered to Northern Ireland. I have nothing but admiration for the way in which you took over a most daunting task at a moment's notice and in less than a year, amid a deluge of ill informed criticism, gave effect to the Hunt recommendations on the internal administration of the force. The work you set out to do is done and the foundation firmly laid for your successor in a way that enables the Government here to be confident that the work you began will be carried on, that the R.U.C. will not be rearmed or the character of its duty to society changed. You can safely and honourably pass on the task to your successor at this point.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Major Chichester-Clark.

(sgd.) REGINALD MAUDLING

Sir Arthur Young, C.M.G.