



P.A. on file

Issued by the NORTHERN IRELAND INFORMATION SERVICE
Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST. Telephone BELFAST 63011

PRESS RELEASE

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MAJOR J D CHICHESTER-CLARK DL MP, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SEPTEMBER 23 1970

The Police Authority announced to-day that Sir Arthur Young will, at his own request, be released from his appointment as Chief Constable of the RUC in mid-November to enable him to resume his duty as Commissioner of the City of London Police.

Sir Arthur's request that he might now be released follows the implementation of nearly all the recommendations of the Hunt Committee. It has been of tremendous benefit, not only to the RUC but to Northern Ireland as a whole, to have had at the head of the Force during a crucial and demanding period of transition one of the most distinguished of British police officers. Sir Arthur Young brought to his difficult task a profound knowledge of police work acquired in widely diverse conditions. He brought also a selfless dedication and a leadership which inspired. I have no doubt that both the RUC and Northern Ireland will have good cause in the years that lie ahead to be more than grateful for his endeavours in their behalf.

Underlying the detailed recommendations of the Hunt Report was the general principle that the RUC, while preserving the best of its local traditions and maintaining its ability to respond to the local situation, should be much more closely integrated with the Police Services of the United Kingdom as a whole. The Government welcomed the adoption of this principle, consistent as it is with the general observance here in vital services of the highest British standards.

Over the past year almost all of the detailed recommendations of the Hunt Committee have been speedily and efficiently implemented and for this the Chief Constable, with his great experience of many of the new systems and methods being adopted, clearly must share a great deal of the credit which the Force as a whole has earned. With the implementation of the Hunt recommendations the task for which Sir

Arthur Young left his London duties has virtually been completed.

As far as the Government is concerned, the concept of a civilianised and normally-unarmed Service closely associated with British Police Services as a whole will be maintained for the future as the proper pattern for the policing of this country.

I am delighted to hear that the Police Authority have recommended for appointment in Sir Arthur's place the present Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Graham Shillington, and for appointment as the new Deputy Chief Constable, Mr James Flanagan, at present an Assistant Chief Constable. Both these officers have had long and distinguished careers in the RUC, fortified by close association with, and involvement in, the changes which have been taking place. I approve these appointments under the powers conferred upon me by Section 7 of the Police Act (NI) 1970 in the knowledge that all elements of the community can have complete confidence in the fairness and sense of impartial service of these officers.

I regard it as very desirable that the close association between the RUC and the United Kingdom Police Service as a whole should be further developed. I have therefore asked the Home Secretary, in accordance with a recommendation of the Hunt Committee, that one of HM Inspectors of Constabulary should be made available to carry out here a regular inspection of the Force on the lines of those which are customary for all Forces in Great Britain. He has agreed to my request and the first such inspection will take place next year.

In this context I also endorse the view expressed by the Police Authority that in making future appointments to the post of Chief Officer in the RUC, due weight should be given to the desirability of experience of police operations elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Arrangements are already being made for certain officers of the RUC to be attached on secondment to forces in Great Britain, and the Chief Constable-designate will be exploring urgently the attachment of further officers from Great Britain to the RUC. Over the past year two such officers, D C C Boyes from East Anglia, and Commander Remnant from the Metropolitan Police have been attached to the RUC for specific assignments, and indeed Commander Remnant is still carrying out duties here.