

cc Mr Buxton  
Mr Crowley ✓ (10)

E. R. DRF/12998

24 OCT 1977

MR PRITCHARD

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AWS: 108-777
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DATE 24/10/77

cc PS/Secretary of State  
 PS/PUS  
 Mr Janes  
 Mr Cradock  
 Mr Stephens *Ad 24/10.*  
 Mr Marshall  
 Mr Gilliland  
 Mr Seaman  
 Mr Neilson

THIS WEEK PROGRAMME

Mr Gilliland and I met Mr McGookin yesterday afternoon to discuss the TV Programme "This Week" which will be devoted to allegations of RUC ill treatment during interrogation. It will be screened on Thursday 27 October.

Mr Taylor who is making the programme has been given no help by the RUC or the NIO as a matter of policy since he is citing cases in the programme which are the subject of complaints which are being investigated. I understand the programme consists of an account of 10 case-histories alleging brutality supported by medical reports followed by the evidence of 6 doctors who have examined people who they conclude have been physically ill treated by the RUC.

Mr Taylor has offered Mr Newman a 5 minute interview in the programme "to refute the allegations which have been made". This offer will be refused and Mr Newman intends to see Mr Fleck (NI representative of the IBA) this afternoon to express his concern over the programme in general and the activities of some "political doctors" in particular.

Following our discussion Mr McGookin will advise the Chief Constable that we think he should ask the IBA for the opportunity to make a televised statement at the conclusion of the programme. This statement, which is now being drafted, would make the following points:-

- (a) The current trend of allegations against the police is an international problem which stems largely from the growth of international terrorism;
- (b) The procedures to deal with complaints against the police in NI are embodied in the law and are followed to the letter by the RUC;
- (c) These procedures are some of the most comprehensive in existence anywhere and embody a significant independent element;
- (d) The cases referred to in the programme cannot be discussed in detail since many of them are presently in the process of being investigated in accordance with the legal procedure.

The Chief Constable will also be advised to ask to see the whole programme on film before he makes his statement and in our view it would be very difficult for the IBA not to press the Chief Constable's case for a balancing statement to be included in the programme.

*D R Ford*

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