

21
E.R.

STALKER

Line to Take (Defensive)

I understand that Mr Stalker submitted a report to the Chief Constable in September last year, and that was sent to the DPP(NI) in February. On 4 March he directed that further investigations be undertaken.

I also understand that this task will be completed by the same enquiry team consisting of the same officers. The Chief Constable has however announced that in view of Mr Stalker's leave of absence, and after consultation with, and on the recommendation of Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Mr Colin Sampson, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, is heading the team.

Background Note

There is very little that Ministers could or should say about the suspension of Mr Stalker. The Prime Minister rebuffed Mr Mallon in the Commons on Tuesday, and made it clear that it would not be right to comment on the case or its implications.

The line to take therefore sticks to the reply given to Mr Taylors Parliamentary Question on Stalker (which has not yet been issued).

On 10 June the RUC issued a statement (copy attached) emphatically rejecting allegations that Mr Stalker's suspension was in any way connected with the enquiry he was conducting in Northern Ireland.

Atts/

E.R.

(BACKGROUND NOTE)

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE RUC PRESS
OFFICE ON 10 JUNE 1986

"Allegations or inferences have been made concerning Mr Stalker in connection with the RUC and his investigations here. The RUC emphatically rejects these allegations and inferences and deeply resents any completely unjustified statements which have been made. The Greater Manchester Police team which conducted the investigations led by Mr Stalker will continue under the direction of Mr Sampson".