

CONFIDENTIAL

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Reference: DUS(B)86/12/6203/GE

cc: PS/PUS (B & L)
PS/Mr Bloomfield
Mr Brennan
Mr Innes
Mr Elliott
Mr Gilliland
Mr McConnell
Mr Shannon ✓
Mr Blackwell

Mr Stephens

POLICE FEDERATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND - ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT
AND RELATED MATTERS

Your minute of 29 December asked Mr Shannon to speak to the Federation at an early date about their request to see the Secretary of State. I have now had a word with Alan Wright (Federation Chairman) along the lines you suggested.

2. At our meeting on 31 December - in which John Elder (Secretary) and Sam Beattie (Treasurer) briefly took part - Mr Wright was at pains to point out that he and the majority at least of his office bearers regarded the Central Committee's projected course of action as potentially disastrous for the RUC and the Federation. I took the opportunity to reinforce this view.

3. Much of the pressure on the Agreement and related matters seems to be coming from the Border areas, but Mr Wright feels that throughout the Force there remains a deep-seated unease which has festered and needs to be let out. The proposed open opposition to the Agreement is not the way to do this and Mr Wright very much wants to find another way out. However it is not easy to see what this might be. The hope is, that by being seen to meet Ministers urgently this fact alone will help to cool matters, at least temporarily.

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4. On the question of seeing Mr Scott, the Federation were as expected not to be deflected from their goal of meeting the Secretary of State. Given the very serious nature of the proposed business they know perfectly well that it is most unlikely the Secretary of State would refuse. However after very considerable discussion I think I was able to convince Mr Wright that for a number of reasons it would be to the Federation's advantage to see Mr Scott first. He undertook to consult with his other office bearers and let me know early next week. He thought the matter would best be handled as a second item to be taken at the meeting already offered on Complaints and Discipline matters. I will let you know Mr Wright's response as soon as I receive it.

5. On the separate matter of the Chief Constable's disciplinary action against Mr Wright, no charge has yet been served on him. However he still expects this to come after the holiday break.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A K Templeton'.

A K TEMPLETON
Police Division (B)

2 January 1987