

E. R.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

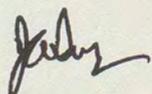
CC: PS/SOS (B&L)  
PS/Mr Scott (B&L) /s  
PS/Mr Bloomfield  
Mr Stephens  
Mr Gilliland  
Mr Ferneyhough  
Mr Innes  
Mr Shannon

**NOTE FOR THE RECORD**

INTIMIDATION OF CONTRACTORS

The Secretary of State this afternoon telephoned Sir Nigel Mobbs of Slough Estates to seek his help in our consideration of this problem. The Secretary of State briefly outlined the problems which were being faced as a result of the intimidation of management and some workers who had building contracts with the security forces. He said that he was considering the possibility of seeking help from mainland sources in order to tackle the problem; one possibility might be to set up a front company within which people from the mainland could operate. He asked Sir Nigel to consider the possibilities.

2. Sir Nigel said that he would like to have 48 hours to think about the problem after which he would telephone the Secretary of State with his views. He was aware that one or two mainland companies had already pulled out of contracts involving the security forces in Northern Ireland. One possibility might be to work through management contracts - one or two firms on the mainland might be prepared to work on this basis and Sir Nigel had in mind in particular a good US backed company. He also noted in passing that the Director of Army Quartering, Major General Webster, had just retired and might be the sort of individual that we were looking for, although he would not have a technical background.



J A DANIELL  
Private Secretary

9 September 1986

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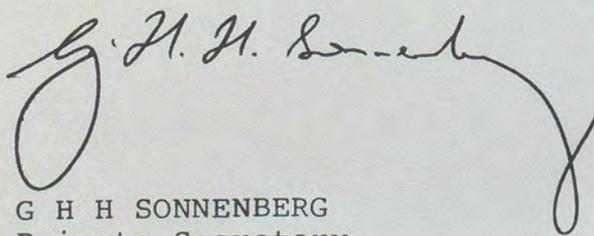
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INTIMIDATION OF CONTRACTORS

Further to Mr Daniell's note of 9 September, Sir Nigel Mobbs rang the Secretary of State this afternoon wondering if he would contemplate using a North American or European contractor. Sir Nigel thought that it would be possible to identify in the UK one or two robust company chairmen, but had doubts whether their staff would be supportive. The Secretary of State replied that a problem about going outside the UK was that foreign supplies (as well as overseas labour) would be involved but supplies were not really the problem. The sort of person he had in mind would probably have an engineering background, and would perhaps have recently retired from the army; he would be tough and have both "grip" and "earth on his boots". Sir Nigel suggested that we might need a "Woodrow's" or "Wimpey" man who would be prepared to jump over into (say) the possible front company. The Secretary of State agreed and asked how we should go about finding such a person. Sir Nigel replied that it would probably be best to employ a discrete "head hunter". He was not sure that he had any other ideas although he was convinced that the person we find should not be part of PSA. NIO should have control. The Secretary of State thanked Sir Nigel for phoning and said that he would give the matter further thought.



G H H SONNENBERG  
Private Secretary

10 September 1986

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