

From PUS
9 December 1988

B/12/27/DMC

PS/Junior Ministers (L&B)
NI Permanent Secretaries

cc PS/SofS (L&B)
PS/MofS (L&B)
Sir K Bloomfield
Mr A W Stephens
Mr Burns
NIO Under Secretaries
Director ARU
Mr Hewitt
Mr Coulson
Mr Wood
Mr Coston

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cc Mr. McKean } For PERSONAL
Mr. Playfair } information. But please
} ensure all relevant staff
} know the address point
} (item e).
Wright
JW

ANTI-RACKETS UNIT

The ARU will move a further step towards becoming operational on 12 December, although it will be some time before it is either in its permanent accommodation or has its full complement of staff.

2. For obvious reasons, the security of the Unit and of its members will be of crucial importance. It would be unrealistic at this stage to attempt to pretend that there has never been any intention to set up such a unit; and Ministers may consider that the simplest response to any question is to acknowledge that the unit is in course of being established. The actual or intended activities of the unit would not be a suitable subject for media or other briefing or discussions; nor would its detailed composition. There are various precautions that can and must be taken to avoid drawing unnecessary attention to it and to safeguard the identity of its staff.

3. Accordingly:

- (a) the Unit will not feature in staff directories;
- (b) its members should NOT be identified or discussed with third parties;
- (c) in no circumstances are members of the Unit to be referred to by name in official papers or correspondence;
- (d) those who are aware of the Unit's location are to avoid mentioning where it is, on paper or in conversation;
- (e) papers for the attention of the Unit should be sent in an inner sealed envelope addressed to:

*Letter to Bank
re opening a/c/
had to name
Hew.*

14 DEC 1988
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Director ARU
and enclosed in an outer envelope which makes no
mention of ARU but is addressed to:

PAGAB
Room 139
Stormont House Annexe.

PAGAB will then arrange for the sealed envelope to be
delivered unopened to the Unit;

- (f) the Unit's telephone number will be notified separately
on a need-to-know basis. Anyone who has not been told of
the number and who needs to speak to a member of the Unit
should contact PAGAB or LOB, who will arrange for the
Unit to ring back;
- (g) the practice of referring to the unit as LOB II should
cease.

4. I shall be grateful if all addressees will draw these
instructions, on a personal basis, to those of their staff who are
likely to be involved in dealings with the ARU. Any queries should
be addressed to Mr A P Wilson or Mr S Hewitt.

JOHN BLELLOCH

9 December 1988