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10 November, 1969

*Dear Dan*

I enclose copies of drafts of the two statements to be made here on Wednesday. The Prime Minister's press statement can be taken as reasonably firm. He has spent some time on it himself. The Minister of Home Affairs' statement to the House of Commons, although he has provisionally approved it, is at an earlier stage. I expect the Minister will, as is his custom, have further thoughts about it himself and there will need to be added to the statement some of the details from the White Papers.

Would you please arrange for clearance by the Ministry of Defence as well as by S. of S. ?

I shall be available to receive comments up to the end of duty on Tuesday; but if there are any further points made after that, I suggest that you channel them through this office.

*Yours ever*  
*Baker*

(A. S. Baker)

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PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS STATEMENT

On 10th October, following the publication of the Hunt Report, I announced the decisions of the Government of Northern Ireland on some broad principles for the future defence and policing of the Province. Subject to satisfactory assurances which we had been given about the future strength of the Army garrison and other vital aspects of security, we then agreed that the Ulster Special Constabulary should be replaced by two new forces:-

a volunteer reserve on similar lines to the Special Constabulary in Great Britain for ordinary police duties; and

a locally-recruited force to protect the Border and key installations and to carry out any other tasks such as road checks which may be necessary to combat armed guerilla-type attacks. This latter force to be commanded by the G.O.C., who would work in the closest consultation with the Government of Northern Ireland, through the Security Committee chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs.

With the publication to-day of two White Papers, one at Westminster and one at Stormont, the public now has available to it detailed proposals for both these forces.

Since the locally-recruited defence force will be a part of the Armed Forces of the Crown, constitutional responsibility lies with H.M. Government at Westminster, where legislation is being introduced to bring this force into being. However, as the Hunt Report recognised, the Government of Northern Ireland "has a vital interest in the defence of the Province", and that interest has been duly recognised by full consultation with us in the framing of

the proposals published to-day. We have had our differences on point of detail, not all of which we have been able to resolve in full - but I can say honestly that in spite of our reservations on these points we believe that these proposals taken as a whole provide a sound and acceptable foundation for the future security of Northern Ireland. A

These proposals are for the formation of the Ulster Defence Regiment - a fine title which should take its place alongside other titles honoured by the Ulster people such as the Royal Ulster Rifles and the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The Hunt Report, it will be recalled, suggested that a strength of about 4,000 might be sufficient, but the White Paper recommends a force of up to 6,000 officers and men. I think this increase gives proper weight to the need to have a strong and fully effective force ready to cope with any emergency which may arise and specifically with "armed attack or sabotage". [These proposals emphasize once again that] the G.O.C., in his command of the Ulster Defence Regiment, will work in the closest consultation with the Government of Northern Ireland through the Security Committee chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs. B

There are three other aspects of the United Kingdom Government's proposals which I would like to stress. First, the force will be better trained and better equipped than that which it replaces, because it will have a mobile element with equipment including troop-carrying and small four-wheel drive vehicles, together with radio communications. C

Secondly, the Ulster Defence Regiment, because of this new and more modern equipment which it will have, will require rather more stringent training obligations. Since, however, this is essentially a part-time volunteer force, ~~it is important that~~ these obligations <sup>will</sup> ~~should~~ be interpreted with a reasonable degree of flexibility, D\*

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bearing in mind the other commitments of members of the force. ( I  
assured by the G.O.C. that such would be his intention. ) E

Thirdly, the Ulster Defence Regiment, in its training and operations, will have the benefit of the experience of serving Regular Army Officers and non-commissioned officers who are versed in the most up-to-date military methods and techniques.

The other White Paper, presented at Stormont to-day, embodies the proposals of our own Government for a volunteer police reserve as part of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, with an initial establishment of 1,500 officers and men. These special constables will be purely policemen, assisting the R.U.C. in its new role as a civilian and normally unarmed force. I know that the regular police will be greatly strengthened by their ability to call on this substantial force of reserves to assist them, and equally I know that those who come forward to join the force will be proud to be associated with the splendid traditions of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. They will be paid a modest annual bounty and an hourly rate when called out, but I am sure that those who volunteer for service as special constables, like those who join the Ulster Defence Regiment, will principally be attracted by the opportunity of service to Northern Ireland and the community.

Taken together, the Ulster Defence Regiment and the R.U.C. reserve, both of which are to become operational on 1st April, 1970, will provide such an opportunity for up to 7,500 Ulstermen. Both forces will need men of the very best type, willing to show in this direct and active way their concern for the peace and security of this Province. While there will clearly be a place in both - as there must be - for all men of loyalty and good character who can meet the necessary standards, it is particularly important that from the start they should be able to build around a cadre of trained

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and experienced men. That is why, when recruiting starts on 1st January, 1970, I hope that very many members of the present U.S.C. will come forward to offer their services. Without their help, the creation of effective and fully-trained forces would inevitably take a considerable time, and a much heavier burden would have to be borne by the other security forces. F

Between now and the date - 1st April, 1970 - on which the new forces will become operational, there will be a continuing need for the U.S.C. as a vital force in the Province's security system. I know the G.O.C. will join with me in expressing the hope that the members of the force will remain at their posts during this interim period.

If these proposals at Westminster and Stormont are accepted, the U.S.C. as such will cease to operate. But its tradition of service will, I am sure, continue to live on in the new forces through the men who come forward to serve Ulster. The needs of the Province will be no less - only the means of meeting them will be changed. Many of us, I know, would have liked the U.S.C. to continue but since circumstances made that impossible, let us at any rate be profoundly thankful that such thorough steps are being taken to ensure that Ulster remains secure. I want to thank to-day men who have given splendid service to Ulster for half a century, and to say to the present inheritors of these proud traditions - this Province still has need of men of proven loyalty and steadfastness. I know I can rely upon them to play their full part in time to come.

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS' STATEMENT TO NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSE OF COMMONS

In a joint communique issued on the 10th October, 1969, the Government announced its acceptance of recommendations made in paragraphs 109 and 171 of the Hunt Report. These were that the Ulster Special Constabulary should be replaced by two new forces, a volunteer reserve force to assist the Royal Ulster Constabulary in carrying out ordinary police duties and a locally-recruited defence force to protect the border and the State against armed attack and sabotage.

The Government did so on the clear understanding that the Ulster Special Constabulary would remain in being until a fully effective defence force was available to replace it and in the light of the following assurances given by the Home Secretary on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom.

First, that a fully adequate military garrison will be maintained in Northern Ireland at all times and that effective machinery will exist for the swift deployment of Regular Army units in the event of any threat to security.

Second, that arrangements for the raising of such a defence force would be set on foot without delay and that once constituted it would not be changed without the fullest consultation with the Government of Northern Ireland.

9 — Third, that the Government of the United Kingdom accepts it as self-evident that this Government has a vital interest in the defense of the Province, and that such interest will be fully recognized by continuing arrangements. Under these arrangements policy for the use of the defence force will be determined by the General Officer Commanding, Northern Ireland, in close consultation with a Security Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Home Affairs, and

Fourth, that the new force, like the Regular Army units to which I have already referred, will also be capable of swift deployment to counter any security threat and be as effective a deterrent ~~to wrongdoers~~ as the Ulster Special Constabulary, acting in its military role, has been over the last fifty years in the past.

On the 12th October, 1969, the following joint statement was issued by the Government of Northern Ireland and the Home Secretary, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom.

"Steps

"Steps are being taken at once to prepare for the new local reserve force which is to be formed as a replacement for the Ulster Special Constabulary.

The Minister of Home Affairs will be summoning the Security Committee early next week to assess the present and future security needs of the Province and to consider the tasks which the new local reserve force must be prepared to meet and what is needed to make it fully effective.

A Working Party is to be set up immediately to formulate draft legislation. It will be made up of representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the Northern Ireland Government and the G.O.C. The Working Party will study the necessary size of the force and its detailed tasks, methods of operation, terms of service, weapons and equipment. The aim will be to establish a modern fully effective defensive arm.

The Ulster Special Constabulary as at present organised will remain in being until the new force is set up. This new force will need at the outset an effective nucleus of trained and experienced men. The G.O.C. is therefore asking County Commandants of the Ulster Special Constabulary to list the names of those members of the Special Constabulary who wish to offer their services to the new force."

In point of fact, two separate Working Parties were set up by the middle of October. One, a joint Government operation, concerned solely with the defence force on which the Ulster Special Constabulary was represented by the Staff Officer and a District Commandant of that Force; the other, a Northern Ireland Government Working Party, on which both the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Ulster Special Constabulary were represented, has been concerned with the setting up of a volunteer Reserve to carry out ordinary police duties under the supervision and control of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

They have completed their respective tasks with commendable expedition and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all concerned, [particularly the Minister of Defence and his officials and the G.O.C., Northern Ireland,] and his staff, for their ready appreciation of the military requirements of the local situation and the need to act with a high degree of urgency in the matter.

All concerned have worked together in a most commendable manner and in the closest of accord, all of which augurs well for the future.

As a result, Hon. Members have today received the fruits of their ~~their~~ labours [one month from the date of the joint statement to which I have already referred], a White Paper prepared by my Ministry on the setting up of a 1,500-strong Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve and a second White Paper which, this afternoon, is being presented in another place on the formation of a new defence force with a target strength of 6,000 and to be known as the Ulster Defence Regiment.

Critics of the Government have argued, either because they like to do so as a matter of principle or because they have not been prepared to await the outcome and judge by results, that acceptance of the Hunt Report insofar as its recommendations with regard to the Ulster Special Constabulary are concerned can only weaken the security of our Province.

The Government rejects this contention. The Ulster Special Constabulary has served us well and it is no reflection on the good name of that Force if I say that the Government is fully satisfied that the two new forces which will replace it next April will also serve us with great distinction and that Northern Ireland's position as an integral part of the United Kingdom will be stronger than ever before. It will continue to be so as long as loyal citizens of Ulster, of all classes and creeds, are prepared to offer their part-time services for full-time security, ~~as they have done in the past.~~