

CABINET 2.
TOP SECRET.

Confidential Files.

Cooperation between the Security Service and the Garda.

IRELAND

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September 1979.

| Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date |
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| 3-10-79. | | | | | | | |
| 2-1-80 | | | | | | | |
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PREM 19/818

TOP SECRET.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

16 June 1982

Dear Stephen,

Security of the Northern Ireland Border

I have shown the Prime Minister your letter of 10 June 1982 to John Coles about security on the border with the Republic.

The Prime Minister was grateful for this assessment of the position, and with her agreement I have shown your letter to Ian Gow.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Francis Richards (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Yours ever,

Shirley Williams.

Stephen Boys Smith, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

May I show this

to Jan Gow?

AW

14 vi

Yes

no

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

John Coles Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Prime Minister

*My 3rd ...
... to ...*

10 June 1982

*MW
11/11
MF*

Dear Tom,

SECURITY OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND BORDER

I understand that Lord Brookeborough may have expressed to Mr Ian Gow the same concern as he has recently expressed to my Secretary of State about withdrawal of Garda personnel along the border, and we thought you might therefore find it useful to have our assessment of the position.

You will not be surprised to know that we have been watching very carefully for any signs that Mr Haughey is carrying his current unhelpfulness to this extent. There were reports in the media some two weeks ago about withdrawal of Garda personnel from the border to Dublin. There have undoubtedly been some changes of personnel at low level, and the result may have been an overall but small reduction in the numbers available at particular places, not only in the border area. It is, however, well acknowledged that Dublin presently has an appalling crime rate and the coincidence of these reports with the closing stages of the recent by-election may not have been accidental. The moves were criticised by Irish politicians in border areas, worried about the policing of their constituencies. The removal of Garda officers, if only a few of them, who were familiar with the area is certainly regrettable from our point of view and could have an observable effect in a particularly small area. But the RUC are firm that this is having no significant effect, ^{overall} on security co-operation between the two police forces. Day to day contact between officers on the ground, as well as at more senior level, is well established and continues to operate very satisfactorily. We are well placed to identify any withdrawal of co-operation very quickly, and there is no evidence of it.

There are some indications that the aggregate effect of these moves was intended to be a small shift of resources to Dublin, but that in practice supervising officers have removed some "dead-wood". We believe that the changes have affected the uniform branch and not the Special Branch element which is of crucial importance.

In present circumstances we are not complacent about what Mr Haughey might do. We think it possible that the recent flurry of publicity about moves which are apparently no more than routine may have been deliberately occasioned by the Irish Government as a warning to us not to take security co-operation for granted. If

SECRET

so, it is unprincipled; but it is also a warning that we should let current Irish unhelpfulness speak for itself, and avoid comment going beyond the line taken hitherto about the present state of relations, and security cooperation in particular, unless there is some material change in the level of cooperation that really matters, between the RUC and the Garda.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Francis Richards (FCO).

Yours sincerely

Stephen Boys Smith

PP

STEPHEN BOYS SMITH

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25 JUN 1952

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The National Archives

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| LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> | Date and sign |
| PIECE/ITEM <i>818</i> (one piece/item number) | |
| Extract/Item details: <i>Folio 6.</i> <i>Letter to Armstrong dated 5 February 1980</i> | |
| CLOSED FOR YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION | |
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SECRET

Mr. C. WHITMORE



Permanent Under Secretary

K R Stowe CB, CVO

367/PUS/L/

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Ireland

16 January, 1980

Sir Howard Smith, KCMG,
Box 500,
LONDON SW1P 1XH

Hidden Copies
Sir M. Oldfield
Mr. Hannigan
Mr. Marshall

KWH
161

Dear Howard

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 9 January to Robert Armstrong about the attitude of the Irish Gardai towards security and intelligence co-operation.

This was a timely report, since it coincided with the first visit which the new Chief Constable of the RUC, Jack Hermon, had paid to Dublin to meet the Commissioner. His report was wholly consistent with the tenor of your letter both as regards the attitude of the Prime Minister of the Republic - essentially, to require the professional services to carry out their task to the best of their ability - and the consequent approach of the Garda themselves. Jack Hermon was properly cautious, of course, but he was able to cite some notable changes not only in attitude but in practice on the part of the Garda.

It looks as though things are moving in the right direction. We shall be very interested to hear what Ainsworth has to say on 1 February.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,

Ken.

SECRET

K.R. STOWE

16 JAN 1960



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JW
16:

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

Ref. A01131

16th January, 1980

Thank you for your letter of 9th January about recent indications of the attitude of the Irish Gardai.

What you say is reassuring, not to say encouraging, and I was glad to know it.

I hope that you will keep us in touch with how your further contacts with the Gardai develop.

I am sending copies of this letter to Clive Whitmore, Ken Stowe, Brian Cubbon and Michael Newington.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Sir Howard Smith, KCMG



The National Archives

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> | Date and sign |
| PIECE/ITEM <i>818</i> (one piece/item number) | |
| Extract/Item details: <i>Folio 3.</i> <i>Letter to Armstrong dated 9 January 1980</i> | |
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| Extract/Item details: <i>Folio 2</i> <i>Letter to Whitmore dated 3 October 1979</i> | |
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SECRET AND PERSONAL

Original filed
Ireland May 75
(Visit of Taoiseach)



Ireland

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

cc Mr. Vile (C.O.)

6 September 1979

Dear Howard,

VISIT OF THE TAOISEACH 5 SEPTEMBER 1979

When the Prime Minister saw Mr. Lynch yesterday she suggested to him during their *tete-a-tete* discussion that, as part of the general effort to improve co-operation in the security field between the British and Irish authorities, you should meet your Irish opposite number to identify ways in which the Garda and the Security Service can work even more closely together than now to obtain and exchange intelligence. Mr. Lynch agreed that such a meeting should take place.

You should know that the Prime Minister did not raise with Mr. Lynch the question of the political inhibitions that impeded what the two services have hitherto been able to accomplish together. Nor did she mention the possibility of the appointment of a member of the Security Service to our Embassy in Dublin, and of a similar appointment of a member of the Garda to London.

The Prime Minister and Mr. Lynch did not discuss how soon you and your opposite number should report on the outcome of your study of ways in which co-operation should be improved. But as you will see from the record of the plenary meeting, a copy of which is being sent to you separately, it was agreed that British and Irish Ministers should meet in about three weeks' time to take stock of the progress achieved in the follow-up on the various other proposals for greater Anglo/Irish security co-operation which were discussed yesterday. I suggest that you and your Irish colleague work to the same time scale.

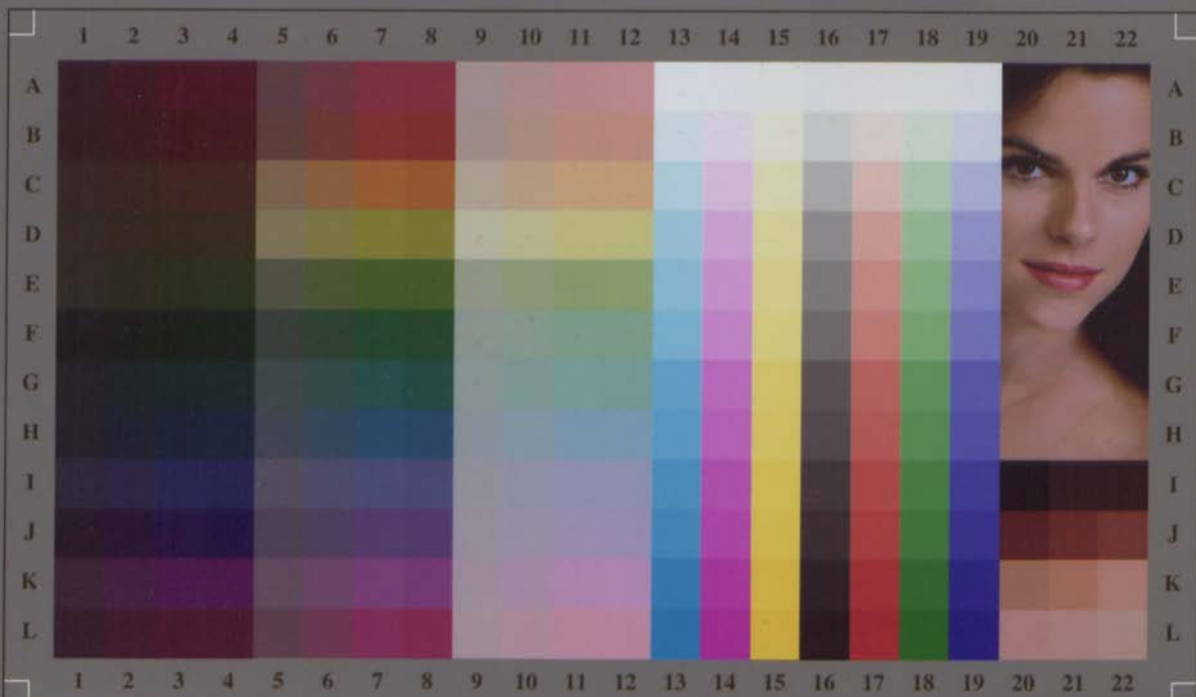
We shall also be sending you separately, for your information, a copy of the record of the *tete-a-tete* discussion between the Prime Minister and Mr. Lynch. Because of its sensitivity I have not included in that record any mention of what the two Prime Ministers agreed about your meeting with your Irish opposite number.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brian Cubbon at the Northern Ireland Office.

Yours sincerely,

John Hume

Sir Howard Smith, KCMG



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