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J. C. HERMON, O.B.E.
Chief Constable



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Send a copy to the
Prime Minister's office
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8th May 1981

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Prime Minister

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Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you for your very generous letter congratulating the Force on its operational performance over the past very sensitive period. May I ask that you thank the Prime Minister for her remarks and assure her that the RUC will do its very best towards maintaining and restoring peace and reconciliation throughout Northern Ireland.

On receipt of your letter I had its content conveyed to the Force and attach a copy of the message sent. I know that every member will fully appreciate your remarks and have no doubt that it will further enhance the already very high state of morale.

Yours sincerely,

J. C. Hermon

Chief Constable

The Rt Hon Humphrey Atkins
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont Castle
BELFAST
BT4 3ST

PS of S (BoL)
PS/PUS (BoL)
Mr Billeloch
Mr Marshall
Mr. Burns
Mr. Wyatt
Mr. Ranson
Mr. Alexander

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND HE PASSES IT ON WITH HIS OWN CONGRATULATIONS FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL POLICE ACTION OF RECENT DAYS.

TEXT OF MESSAGE

YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY ARE GREATLY TO BE CONGRATULATED ON THE TACT, SENSITIVITY AND COURAGE WITH WHICH YOU HAVE HANDLED THE LAST FEW DIFFICULT DAYS. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT FURTHER TESTS ARE TO COME. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, THEREFORE, THAT I REPORTED TO THE CABINET THIS MORNING AND EXPRESSED MY ADMIRATION FOR THE WAY THE RUC AND THE ARMY ARE CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES. THE PRIME MINISTER PARTICULARLY ASKED ME TO PASS ON TO YOU AND TO THE GOC HER OWN ENDORSEMENT OF THIS VIEW. I AM VERY HAPPY TO DO SO.

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE REMINDS THE FORCE THAT THERE WILL BE DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD AND ASKS FOR CONTINUING VIGILANCE AND HIGH STANDARDS OF POLICING WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO PERSONAL SAFETY OF MEMBERS.

AO: CHIEF CONSTABLE

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