



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 September 1996

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I wanted to write straightaway to add my warmest congratulations to those of others on your appointment as the next RUC Chief Constable. I was delighted when I heard the news. I cannot think of a better candidate.

You do not need me to tell you that, whatever happens between now and November, you will be taking over at a difficult and sensitive time. But this will bring opportunities as well as risks, and I have every confidence in your ability to help the RUC maintain and improve its proud record.

Meanwhile, let me assure you that you will have my full support in carrying out your responsibilities. For my part, I will continue to do all I can to bring about a political settlement to the satisfaction of both communities and enable peace to be fully restored to Northern Ireland.

Congratulations and best wishes again.

Yours sincerely
John H. H. H.

Ronnie Flanagan Esq OBE

12