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ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT
(Department of Justice)
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
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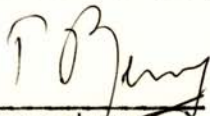
S. 32/69
SECRET

Meán Fómhair, 1969.

Dear Ó Nuallain,

I enclose, for the information of the Taoiseach, further photostat copies of reports received from some of our intelligence agents in the Six Counties. *away.*

Yours sincerely,


Secretary

Dr. N.S. Ó Nuallain,
Secretary to the Government.

MEMORANDUM RE VISITS TO SIX COUNTIES.

- 1) ~~ARMAS~~ - Lisnaskeagh, Newtownbutler, Enniskillen, Roslea and Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh.

A British Army helicopter flew along Leggakelly Border between 3.30 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday, 25/8/1969. The helicopter stayed well in on the Six County side of the Border. A British Army helicopter was flying in the Lisnaskeagh area for a few hours on the afternoon of Monday, 25/8/69

Each day a British Army helicopter patrols the Border at the Newtownbutler area, between 1.30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

A signed petition to have the 'B' Specials disarmed was taken up at all ~~Masses~~ in Newtownbutler and Lisnaskeagh on Sunday, 24/8/1969.

On Monday night, 25th/26th August, 1969, about 500 troops moved into Omagh. There were about 500 troops already there.

There is one Company of British 'Green Jacket' troops in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. There are about 250 troops in all in Enniskillen. There is one Company of 'Green Jacket' troops in Omagh and another one in Ballykelly. There is some ill feeling amongst the 'Green Jacket' troops in Enniskillen. Their pay is a fortnight overdue and this is the reason for the bad feelings.

Also stationed in Enniskillen is a regiment who are armed with a type of vehicle called the 'Ferrit'. They have 25 'Ferrits' and 100 men.

The 'Green Jacket' troops travel in groups of approx. 30 men and are used on hold up duty in many different areas. They are accompanied on this hold up duty by a number of 'B' Specials, six to eight in number, from the Police Station in the sub-district where the hold up is taking place. The army hold up groups are equipped with machine guns and up-to-date rifles. They travel in armoured cars proceeded by a scout car (a 'Ferrit'). At the hold up point they erect zig-zag barriers. At about 60 yards each side of the barricade, a number of soldiers take up position along the fence. Sometimes two soldiers are sent to a high position overlooking the hold up party, if one is convenient, and they are equipped with machine guns. Machine gun look-out posts are set up in a few positions along the Fermanagh/Cavan border, even with ~~the~~ ^{the} National Archives, Ireland in operation.

Sandbags are being mounted at Roslea Police Barracks, Co. Fermanagh. There is usually a Bedford truck load of soldiers at this Barracks. 30 'Green Jacket' troops are guarding Lisnaskeagh Police Barracks at night. This protection is done in four hour shifts. During the daytime one soldier, armed, stands in front of the barracks.

A large number of British troops set up a barricade on the unapproved Ballyconnell/Derrylin road at Gortaneddin, about 70 yards from the frontier at Scotstown, at 10 p.m. on 3/9/1969. All cars crossing into Northern Ireland were stopped and searched at gunpoint, including the occupants.

'B' Specials and British troops perform check point duty and stop vehicles at the following points :-

- 1) At a point 100 yards between Derrnahilt Cross and Balla School, on the Lisnaskeagh side of the school and at a bad corner, about 5 miles from Lisnaskeagh town and the duty is performed at night-time.
- 2) At Tierney's Garage, between Balla school and Lisnaskeagh, ten miles inside the Border, and the duty is performed at night-time.
- 3) At Clarke's shop on the main Tempo/Maguire's Bridge road, where there is a four cross roads junction, six miles inside the Border, and the duty is performed at night-time.

There is information that only a token of arms will be handed in by 'B' Specials in the Newtownbutler area.

There are three platoons of 'B' Specials attached to Kinawley R.U.C. District; one platoon in Derrylin, one in Kinawley and one in Florencecourt. At present they do very little outdoor work apart from the six to eight employed with the military. The others are doing station duty or stand by duty. The 'B' Specials still retain their weapons at home. The total number in the three platoons is 37 men.

The Loughilly Green Temperance Band (Protestant), Newtownbutler, sought permission to march in Newtownbutler village on Sunday, 31/8/1969, in connection with a local sports. Permission was refused. In spite of this, the Band formed up at the Protestant Rectory. However, they were approached by two policemen and the band dispersed.

At present, there are 155 members of a Riot Squad in Enniskillen Depot and they also take part in road checks. It is believed that these men were engaged in the Derry and Belfast riots and are recuperating in Enniskillen.

There are 47 British Army helicopters at present in Northern Ireland - four of which are based in Enniskillen. These helicopters do Border patrols from dawn to dusk. The helicopters take off and land in the Square of R.U.C. Headquarters, Enniskillen. Two large planes, carrying 16 to 26 men, move into the Enniskillen area two or three days per week. They drop a number of their men on the mountain face, who are then picked up by any army jeep waiting at a particular point, convenient to the drop. This is deemed to be an exercise coupled with a search of the mountain area.

2) AREAS - Omagh, Irvinestown and Tempo, Co. Tyrone.

A person visited the Trillick, Co. Tyrone, area from Friday, 29th August to Sunday, 31st August, 1969.

All eligible and available Protestants in the Omagh, Irvinestown, Tempo, Co. Tyrone, and Enniskillen areas are at present active members of the 'B' Specials. All Catholics in the area are opposed to each and every member of this force. The 'B' Specials, who are at the moment under the direct control of the British Forces, are known to have held meetings in some of the members' homes and are believed to be forming a breakaway force on their own initiative. They have recently received instructions that they are forbidden to perform patrols or check point duty without being accompanied by British Army personnel.

In so far as Catholics are concerned, the R.U.C. are at present a non-existent police force. Three Catholic members of the R.U.C., personally known to me, have resigned during the past three months and another, who is at present stationed in Five-mile-town, has tendered his resignation. It is thought that the reason for the resignations is that Catholic members are systematically chosen for temporary duty in troubled areas. There is a rumour in R.U.C. circles that preparations are being made for a token strike based on the same lines as the recent action of the members of the Garda in Dublin.

There are 2,400 British soldiers approximately based at Lisanelly Camp, Omagh. Their equipment includes a large contingent of armoured cars, tanks and approx. six helicopters. There is also 200 British soldiers, supported by light armour, based at the Territorial Barracks in Enniskillen. They are performing frequent patrols in country areas and accompany 'B' Specials on check point duty. Catholics generally have the highest regard for the British troops but the Protestant community tend to treat them with some suspicion.

The general feeling in the above areas is that the Taoiseach, Mr. Lynch, made a serious mistake by not directing the Irish Army to proceed into the Bogside area of Derry, when they move to the Border area to set up field hospitals.

It is also the general feeling that the trouble is far from over in the Six Counties. The IRA, both North and South, are infiltrating the Civil Rights movement to a large extent and are making all out efforts to secure arms and ammunition. A number of people, who have never been known to be members of the IRA, have recently been attending meetings in the locality, which have been organised by leading local IRA men. Due to the fact that Catholics are terrified of the Special Powers Act, all meetings and communications are strictly secret. Relationships between Protestant and Catholic neighbours have completely broken down and they are playing a cat and mouse game with each other twenty four hours a day.

The British Home Secretary's visit to Northern Ireland is regarded as a bluff to enable the Stormont Government to get back on it's feet, and carries little or no weight with the majority of the Catholic community.

3) AREAS - Co. Armagh and Co. Down.

At Camlough, Co. Armagh, a military patrol of two armoured cars, a jeep and a tender were engaged on a traffic hold-up at about 8 p.m. on Friday, 29th August, 1969. All cars stopped were searched. At one stage, when there was a line of cars stopped, a police car came along and went to pass out the line of cars. The police car was halted by the military and sent back to the end of the line of traffic.

At 6.45 p.m. on 1/9/1969, a British Army helicopter performed a patrol along the Border, travelling from direction of Forkhill, Co. Armagh, to Killeen (Six County Cumtoms Post on Dundalk/Newry road). It was flying at an altitude of about 100 feet and was then noticed to move off in the direction of Omeath. The helicopter hovered over Killnasaggart Railway Bridge for a period but did not land. This bridge was blown up several times during the last Border campaign.

Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 2/9/1969, a lorry load of British troops were in the village of Jonesboro', Co. Armagh. There were approximately 40 in all and they carried revolvers. The lorry contained a number of machine guns. The troops did not stop or question anybody. An army jeep, which accompanied the lorry, performed a patrol of a number of border roads in the area. (Jonesboro' village is adjacent to the Border - Co. Louth).

At 12 m.n. on 3/9/1969, about seven(7) military were engaged in stopping traffic at Jonesboro', which is about 800 yards from Dromad (Co. Louth) Garda Station.

Each night, approximately six(6) members of the 'B' Specials are engaged on protection duty at Newry Police Station.

(4) BELFAST Area.

A person visited the Belfast area from Tuesday September 9, 1969, to September 12, 1969.

At approx. 7p.m. September 9, 1969, members of the R.U.C. were parked in an armoured jeep at the Hillsborough entrance of the M.1 motorway. There were six (6) men in the jeep and each was carrying a Sterling sub-machine gun. There was also an RUC patrol car with four (4) occupants close by. The arms, if any, which these persons were carrying, were not noted.

All the side streets leading off the Donegal Road, Belfast were barricaded on September 9, 1969.

On the Donegal Road as one drives towards Shaftsbury Square, there is an articulated vehicle lying on its side partially blocking the road. Three burned out motor cars and a burned out bread van also lie on the side of this road. September 9, 1969, at the entrance to each side street, there was a crowd of at least fifty (50) people. This included men, women and children. There was also an assortment of RUC policemen and Army personnel at each corner. They numbered between fifteen (15) and twenty (20) in each case. The atmosphere was very tense. Both Police and Troops were heavily armed. There were a total of fifteen (15) armoured vehicles parked at intervals along the entire length of Donegal Road. All vehicles were heavily armed. The purpose of the guard at this point was to prevent the Protestant people, who were all concentrated, as above, on my right hand side, from crossing Donegal Road and entering the Falls Road area, which was to my left.

All the side streets from Bedford Street to the Queen's Bridge are barricaded with derelict buses. In this area about three hundred (300) youths in groups of twenty (20) were standing around the street corners. They did not carry arms or missiles.

At the Queen's Bridge, ten (10) youths were seen to stop a bus which was travelling towards the city centre. They ordered the passengers and crew off the bus, and took it (the bus) over. They then used the bus and a towing chain to tow four (4) derelict buses down to Cromac Square to form barricades. While they were towing the first bus, two tenders of armed RUC came on the scene. They parked on the opposite side of the Bridge and took no action.

(4) BELFAST Area contd.

The RUC Station at Mountpottinger is completely barricaded with barbed wire fencing, and a total of twelve (12) troops carrying Sterling Sub-Machine Guns, surround the building. The nearby Catholic area, which comprises Bryson St., Beechfield St., Thompson St. and Short Strand, were all manned by civilian vigilantes. These streets, which lead off Mountpottinger Road, had barricades mounted. The barricades consisted of pavements slabs stacked on top of each other to a height of about four (4) feet. There were no RUC or troops in any of these streets.

At 9a.m. September 10, 1969, business was as usual in the city generally. On the evening of September 10, 1969, people inside the Falls area relaxed in the knowledge that they were secure behind the barricades.

As September 10, 1969, was the evening of the Northern Ireland/Russia Soccer International at Windsor Park, there was a tense atmosphere prevailing. It was felt that there might be trouble, as the main body of soccer supporters come from the Shankill area and in returning home would have to pass quite close to the Falls. To avoid trouble, all the licensed premises in the city closed at 7p.m. Things passed off quietly that evening. The Russian football team were not allowed to return to their Hotel - The County Hotel, Dunmurray - after the game, but were taken to a secret rendezvous.

September 11, 1969, a number of barricades in the East Belfast area were being dismantled, but later in the afternoon all had been rebuilt.

September 12, 1969, (Friday morning), many British Troops were seen in the danger areas of the city. In the area surrounding the Falls all traffic duty is performed by the Troops.

There is still a great feeling of distrust among the Catholic population in Belfast towards the RUC. On Sunday, August 17, 1969, there was bitter fighting between the Catholics in Hooker St. and the Protestants in Disraeli St. These Catholics were under heavy pressure from Protestants who were going to take over the Catholic area of Ardoyne. It was their intention to burn the Holy Cross Church. The Prior of the Church told the congregation at all morning masses that he would ring the bell if the Church was being attacked, and he called on all parishoners to come immediately if this happened.

(4) BELFAST Area contd.

A hurriedly convened meeting took place that Sunday afternoon at Stormont Castle, at which the Prime Minister and members of the Government attended, together Vivian SIMPSON, M.P., and Patrick DEVLIN, M.P., Labour Party, Father COLUM, Rector, Holy Cross Church, Ardoyne, and Sir Anthony PEACOCKE, Inspector General of the RUC. The decision to bring Troops to Ardoyne was made and the meeting terminated at 3.55p.m. At 4p.m. it was common knowledge on the Shankill Road that the Troops were moving into Ardoyne. The word got around quickly and a decision was made among the Protestants to cancel their planned attack on Holy Cross Church. The Catholic members attending the meeting were suspicious, to say the least of it, that the decision of the meeting at Stormont Castle was transmitted to the Shankill Road by Mr. PEACOCKE. Behaviour such as this is the basis for the Catholic mistrust in the RUC.

The feeling within the barricades of the Falls Road towards the speech of the Taoiseach is rather mixed. The general consensus of opinion seems to be that if he is not prepared to act he should not have said anything. In the hours preceeding his television broadcast there was a lull in the fighting, and when his speech was over tension on either side ran very high. The Protestants felt indignant and the Catholics received a morale booster. Even the setting up of the Army field hospitals along the Border were considered an expression of support.

The topic of conversation throughout Belfast on Friday, September 12, 1969, was the publishing of the CAMERON REPORT. The Protestant reaction is one of indignation while the Catholics claimed it as a victory. The fact that the Prime Minister stated that he would resign if the reforms were not through before Christmas is interpreted as merely a political speech, the speech of a "Death Bed Repentent". It is generally accepted that the Prime Minister will go from office in the same manner as Captain O'NEILL, and will be succeeded by Mr. Brian FAULKNER, who would be accepted by all the die-hard Unionists, as projecting the image of the progressive businessman and, at the same time, more bitter towards the minority than any other member of the Cabinet. This is seen as only a temporary measure as direct rule from Westminster is considered inevitable within the next six (6) months, as things have escalated beyond the control of any politician in Northern Ireland.

(4) BELFAST Area contd.

The fact the sixteen (16) RUC members are to face disciplinary charges for misconduct was announced by the Inspector General a few days ago, who is alleged to have made the statement, only when the findings of the CAMERON COMMISSION were known to him to contain an indictment of the behaviour of these members. The RUC in general seems to be completely lacking in morals at the moment. The rank and file members feel that they are being used as scapegoats by the Unionist Party. There have been many resignations from the Force within the last fortnight. The exact number is as yet, unknown. One Catholic member [REDACTED], who was prominently identified with the [REDACTED] murder a few years ago - has had his house burned down, and has had to evacuate his family. The Catholic members of the RUC are in the unenviable position, that the Protestant community do not want them, their Protestant comrades do not want them for the same reason, and the Catholic community do not want them because they are members of the RUC. The Force feel that the Government and the Inspector General failed badly in coming to their aid when criticism was being made against them by the press and television.

It is stated on good authority that members of the Special Branch, RUC, are on duty in the GPO in Belfast, tapping all telephone lines to and from the South. It is well known in Belfast that the "B" Specials are frequenting all Hotels and Public Houses, in civilian attire, since the start of the recent troubles.

The following Pirate Radio Stations are in operation at the moment in Belfast;

NAME	FACTION	LOCATION
(1) Voice of Ulster	Protestant	Barnsley Park, Shankill Road.
(2) Radio Orange	do	do
(3) Radio Shankill	do	"The Hammer" Shankill Road.
(4) Radio Sundown	do	do
(5) Radio Free Belfast	Catholic	"The Long Bank" 59 Leeson Street.
(6) Radio Peace	Neutral	Springfield Park off Springfield Road.

(4) BELFAST Area contd.

"The Long Bank", 59 Leeson Street, where Radio Free Belfast was in operation, is a Licensed Premises. The Station which was manned by a staff of eight (8) - six (6) men and two (2) girls - is used to announce any developments to the residents in the locality. Between announcements record requests are played - played for those persons manning the barricades. This station was on the air for twenty one (21) hours of the 24. It goes off the air from 9a.m. to 12 noon. daily, to give the equipment an opportunity of cooling. There is a notice to this effect on the wall of the studio. In a room off the studio is a printing works comprising three machines and two typewriters. This printing ~~works~~ boys and three girls. It is used for printing all correspondence and information leaflets such as the "CITIZEN PRESS", and typing the news items before broadcasting.

Hereunder is a list of Protestant Associations in Northern Ireland with approx. number of followers in each;

- (1) Ulster Volunteer Force6,000
- (2) Rev. Ian Paisley's Group.....1,000
- (3) Major Ronald Bunting's Groups----- 800
(80 units of ten men each)
- (4) Shankill Defence Association.....10,000.
(Mr John McKeague, Chairman)

(1) ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE:

This Force is run on Military Lines. It bears a close resemblance to the IRA, in that it is a secret society. The members are in possession of arms and ammunition, and there are secret dumps for these weapons. The bulk of its members are also members of the Ulster Special Constabulary. ("B" Specials). ~~_____~~

(2) Rev. IAN PAISLEY. (3) Major RONALD BUNTING.

Both these associations are organised on similar lines. In fact it will be remembered that both leaders worked hand in hand until very recently, when there was a disagreement between them ~~_____~~. This fact has not been made public for reasons of policy. Their ranks include a number of "B" Specials. They have a limited number of arms at their disposal.

(4) SHANKILL DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

This association has its headquarters in Disraeli St., off the Crumlin Road. It comprises the very roughest elements of Belfast Protestantism. All residents of the Shankill Road are members, together with Protestants from all other parts of the city. They have a great quantity of arms and ammunition at their disposal. The Chairman - Mr. John McKEAGUE - who has a small green grocery

(4) BELFAST Area contd.

a small green grocery/
in East Belfast at Newtownards Road, has been responsible for
the spreading of the violence to that part of the city within the
past week. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], recently shot in Belfast, and killed, was actually in
the act of firing a petrol bomb into the home of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], when shot. The Police are satisfied that the
man responsible for the shooting is [REDACTED] who immediately
after the shooting took cover behind the barricades at Falls Road.
They now believe that he has fled to the Republic. They also
believe that had he stood his ground, he could have proved self -
defence. 41

(5) MISCELLANEOUS:

It is stated that Bernadette DEVLIN and Eamon McCANN had a dispute
at Bogside since her return from New York, and that she was ordered
out by McCANN and others from behind the barricades at Bogside. It
is stated that as a result of the dispute, she crossed over the
Border to the Republic.

Information from reliable Republican sources states that if the
barricades are removed in Derry and Belfast by the authorities,
against the wishes of the people, there will be further violence.

It is now believed that there is at present a ~~total~~ total of approx
9,000 British Army Troops in the six counties. The following is a
list of known camps:

- (1) Sea Eagle Naval AirBase in Derry City - 2,000 troops.
- (2) Magilligan Army Camp, Derry - 150 troops approx.
- (3) Enniskillen - 150 troops approx, with four armoured cars.
- (4) Lisburn - 750 troops approx. with four armoured cars.
- (5) Armagh - 150 troops with eight armoured cars.